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AIR CANADA

A noon meeting in L.A.?

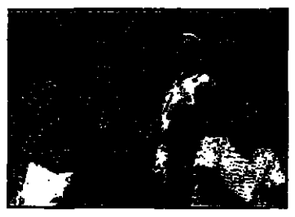
AIR CANADA will get you there in time

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Skyhawk crash

An IDF soldier contemplates the wreckage of a Skyhawk jet trainer, which crashed yesterday into a wheat field near Tarkumiya after an apparent malfunction. The pilot instructor and his student cadet bailed out safely. Story, Page 3. (AP)

MKs rally for early elections bill

No-confidence motions defeated

By LIAT COLLINS

As the Knesset prepares to recess for three months tomorrow night, the opposition is preparing one last bid to pave the way for early elections.

The government survived another vote on three no-confidence motions yesterday. It has now beaten 60 no-confidence motions over the past two years.

The joint vote on the three motions by Labor, Meretz, and Hadash on the diplomatic process was 42 to 20 in favor. The two Moledet MKs abstained. The motions would have required the support of 61 MKs to pass.

Because it was clear yesterday that the motions could not pass, MKs paid less attention to that vote and put more emphasis on the two bills expected to be heard tomorrow calling for dissolving the Knesset and holding early elections. These bills however, are also more a gesture than a realistic proposal and would mainly affect the government's prestige.

The bills – being raised at preliminary reading by Meretz whip Haim Oron and MK Haim Ramon (Labor) – need only a regular majority to pass at this stage, but would require 61 MKs to pass the next three readings. Coming the last day of the Knesset sitting, the bills will not be able to pass all the necessary readings until after the recess.

Yesterday's no-confidence motions were heard with little drama in a near-empty plenum.

MK Shimon Peres, presenting Labor's bill, said the differences with the Palestinians are "microscopic," but the decision on the redeployment is not being made because some MKs are threatening the government.

He accused the prime minister of causing "diplomatic paralysis, a defense crisis, and an economic recession."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said: "The entire coalition knows Binyamin Netanyahu is a false messiah."

Answering on behalf of the government, Science Minister Silvan Shalom said the government would prefer to carry out the redeployment with national support, but it cannot because the country is divided. Half the populace is calling on the government to make greater concessions, he said, whereas Yasser Arafat is not being pressured to even keep existing agreements.

Moledet withdrew its own no-confidence motion earlier in the day after reaching an agreement with the prime minister's bureau chief, Uri Elitzur.

Pullback teams to talk today, Page 2

Under this agreement, the government promises to bring any redeployment agreement to the Knesset for approval, even during the recess.

It will then be possible to bring a no-confidence vote in the prime minister at the conclusion of the debate on the agreement. However, if the opposition does so, it could postpone a vote on the agreement until after the recess, since the opposition cannot force a no-confidence vote during a recess.

But the government, during a recess, can introduce bills and call for a vote of confidence. Therefore, if the Knesset approves the agreement during the recess, the government promised to introduce two bills, in two separate sessions, calling for votes of confidence on the agreement.

This, in theory, could expose it to being toppled, should the opposition and small parties – say, the NRP or Moledet, who might disapprove of the redeployment agreement – vote against the government.

Although the National Religious Party decided to oppose the no-confidence motions yesterday, its MKs are divided on how to act tomorrow during the vote on the dissolution bills.

NRP whip Shmaryahu Ben-Tsur said, "Things could change at any moment."

MK Hanan Porat (NRP) announced he will support the dissolution bills. "In my opinion, it is in the best interests of the state – as well as the prime minister's interests – that elections be held before May 1999.

"That will be a critical time. Arafat is likely to declare a Palestinian state and the final status agreements will still be ahead. The prime minister must stop these redeployments. Before May 1999, he should hold new elections, and the public will decide," he said.

Gesher MKs absented themselves from yesterday's vote, but party leader David Levy said they will support the dissolution bills.

Levy cited the country's economic problems and said: "When the government is not functioning and the Knesset is helpless, the Knesset should be dissolved."

Some Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs voted against the no-confidence motions yesterday and the party is expected to vote against dissolving the Knesset.

The head of the Land of Israel Front, Michael Kleiner (Gesher), said that yesterday four members of the front said they would support the dissolution motions: Kleiner, Porat, Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya), and Benny Elon (Moledet).

Third Way MKs also did not participate in the no-confidence motions, saying in a statement that: "The faction is dissatisfied with the way the prime minister is acting to promote the peace process."

Earlier, Third Way MKs had reacted differently to the reports that Netanyahu had suggested that part of the Judean Desert be handed to the Palestinians as a nature reserve as part of the second redeployment agreement.

The Third Way platform states that it will not agree to conceding territory in Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, the Judean Desert, or the Jordan Valley.

Third Way whip Yehuda Harel said yesterday: "From our point of view, the Judean Desert is like the Golan Heights. We're not talking about the interests of the coalition, but about what is important for the country and what the country's borders are."

MK Alex Lubotzky also adamantly opposed the proposal. "I am not prepared to talk about this other than to say it will be something we'll regret forever. It will be a huge mistake and I hope it won't happen," he said.

MK Emanuel Zissmann was less decisive, saying, "We're in a difficult situation. In my opinion, because of the missed opportunities on the interim agreement over the last year, the most important thing now is that the prime minister keeps his commitment to abide by the agreements and carry out redeployment."

May unemployment hits 9.3%

By DAVID HARRIS

Unemployment rose to 9.3 percent in May, its highest level since the third quarter of 1993, according to initial figures the Central Bureau of Statistics published yesterday.

In real terms, some 210,000 people were out of work in May.

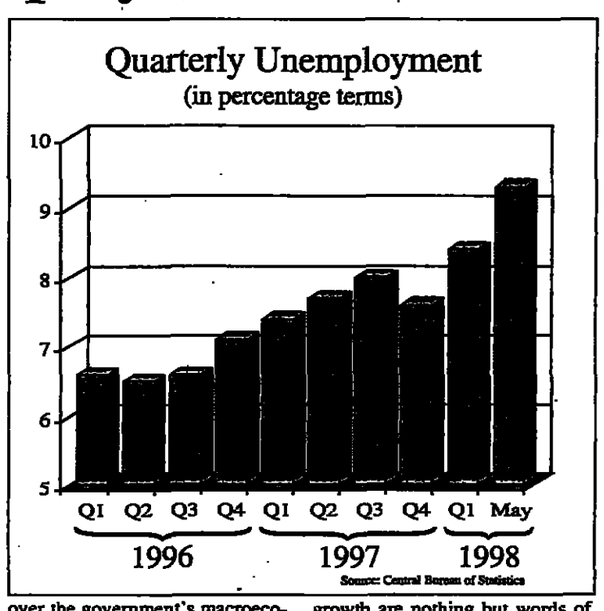
The bureau also updated its figures for April, showing that unemployment then passed the 200,000 mark for the first time since early 1993, as joblessness reached 9.1% rather than 8.8% as published a month ago.

The May percentage, which is a seasonally-adjusted figure, could prove not to be the final figure for the month as the bureau continues to process data.

The monthly numbers are trend figures, while the bureau believes the most reliable statistic to be its quarterly jobless total, which for the first quarter stood at 8.4%. The numbers for the second three months of the year will be published at the end of August, said bureau spokesman David Neumann.

The monthly unemployment total has risen steadily from 8.6% in February through 8.8% in March and 9.1% in April.

In their ongoing dialogue ahead of publication of the 1999 state budget proposals, Treasury and Bank of Israel economists are assuming that unemployment will average 9% this year. Before yesterday's announcement, they were assuming joblessness would hit 9.4 - 9.6% by the year's end.



Under a barrage of criticism over the government's macroeconomic policies, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday pledged that "unemployment is at the top of the Treasury's list of priorities in constructing economic policy for 1999."

He failed to give examples, however, of programs aimed at reducing unemployment.

"The government is continuing in its path of destruction of the economy," charged Labor's chief economics spokesman Avraham Shohat. "All the speeches of the prime minister and finance minister about renewed [economic] growth are nothing but words of deceit and hocus-pocus."

Shohat predicted unemployment would reach 10% this year.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said the figures "create a lack of hope and trust in the entire government. No minister can wipe his hands of the responsibility."

Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper joined the chorus, calling for an immediate Camp David-style meeting with Treasury and central bank leaders to seek ways to boost economic growth.

Report: Israelis involved in Burma arms production

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

Israeli consultants are helping Myanmar, formerly Burma, produce small arms and ordnance in a prefabricated factory built in Singapore, the London-based *Jane's Defense Weekly* said yesterday.

The report comes amid renewed denouncings of the military-ruled government of Myanmar for the arrest of Nobel Peace Prize winner Suu Kyi, head of the National League for Democracy.

According to the latest issue of *Jane's*, the Israelis are connected with TAAS-Israel Industries, but it is unclear whether they are current or former employees.

The factory was designed and built by Chartered Industries of Singapore and shipped to Yangon, formerly Rangoon, in mid-February. The factory is most likely producing the EMERK-1, a local assault rifle, the weekly said.

"They rebuilt the whole factory in Burma with assistance from Israeli military experts. We still don't know exactly whether these experts are active officers of the Israeli military or former officers," said a journalist from Radio-Free Burma interviewed on Israel Radio yesterday.

The Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv issued a reaction to the report which was neither a confirmation nor a denial.

"The Defense Ministry has a clear policy anchored in the practices of the office which determines the security links and their scope and character. It is a policy which is in line with the foreign policy of Israel and coordinated with the Foreign Ministry," the statement said.

"We do not elaborate on this policy regarding each specific nation," the statement added.

A TAAS spokesman said he was looking into the report and could not comment otherwise about it.

In the sharpest condemnation yet by the United States of the government of Myanmar, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said that Washington "deplores the government of Burma's refusal to allow members of the National League for Democracy, a legal political party, to travel freely."

Neeman's health plan would break his own law

By JUDY SIEGEL

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's "new, improved plan" for directly charging residents for health services – by instituting a monthly health fund fee determined by income level – would apparently violate the Arrangements Law which he personally pushed through the Knesset in December.

Neeman, in an emergency meeting Sunday with Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, suggested the progressive charge in desperation after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu ordered the withdrawal from the Knesset Finance Committee of the previous proposal – a monthly head tax of NIS 20 per person and up to NIS 55 per family, to be paid by all residents to their health funds.

The proposal, which also included user's fees for visiting community health fund clinic doctors and hospital outpatient clinics, aroused much ire in the coalition – especially Shas – and the opposition. Netanyahu saw it had no chance of passing the finance committee and told the ministries to find another way to collect NIS 350 million from the public to help ease the health system's NIS 1.5 billion deficit.

After health fund and hospital directors held a press conference announcing imminent closing of facilities and their financial collapse, Neeman set up a meeting with Matza. According to a Health Ministry press release, Neeman – a prominent lawyer – suggested the option of a monthly fee levied according to income and asked for a week's timeout, during which he would try to get the coalition to back the idea.

The Finance Ministry spokesman issued a press release with no details of Neeman's proposals, and refused to comment yesterday when *The Jerusalem Post* pointed out to him that the plan would be illegal.

According to Section 8, Paragraph B of the Arrangements Bill, "payments by [health fund] members – whether as co-payments or a periodic, regular payment, will be uniform and not discriminate [among people], and without being tied to members' income." Thus Neeman's "new, improved" scheme would violate the law authored by the Treasury itself, and implementing it would require the Arrangements Law to be amended – likely to be a very complex process, given the fact that its passage was extremely difficult.

Officials in both ministries are reportedly at their wits' end to find a solution to the deficit problem. Many legal experts say the requirement to pay for visits to the doctor cannot be enforced, since the National Health Insurance Law bars denying medical care to people who refuse to pay for it.

Matza has advocated raising the income ceiling for health taxes deducted monthly by the National Insurance Institute from four times the average wage to six times that figure, but the Treasury and the NII strongly oppose this idea, each for its own reasons. The Treasury doesn't want to increase taxes, while the NII argues that the four-times-income ceiling is the standard one for other payments as well.

Tomorrow health system personnel are to demonstrate opposite the Knesset at 1 p.m. to protest against the system's severe financial straits. They will warn that without a massive injection of funds, the insurers will have to close down their facilities, risking the collapse of public hospitals as well. The Treasury had promised the health funds NIS 300 million when they began to collect additional user's and membership fees directly from the public; but now, this has been held up.

Electoral red light

ANALYSIS

By AMOTZ ASA-EL

Israeli elections are famous for generating debate, heat and even violence on such issues as religion and state, territorial concessions or civil rights. Yet because it is perennially burdened by such daunting dilemmas, local political discourse has seldom dwelt on the state of the economy.

Even the 1984 election, which in most other countries would have been overshadowed by the hyper-inflation which then plagued the economy, was dominated by the Lebanon War.

Only twice – once in the mid-1960s and then in the early 1990s – did the state of the economy creep to the top of the Israeli public agenda. In each case, popular concern focused not on the national debt, current-account deficit, trade balance or even cost of living and interest rates, but on jobs.

The mid-1960s' recession was never actually brought to the voters because the Six Day War suddenly erupted, inadvertently generating new investments, growth and jobs.

This decade, however, the rise of unemployment to nearly 11 percent in 1992 clearly played a role in the downfall of Yitzhak Shamir's government.

Now, considering that this two-year-old government already has seen the jobless rate soar from just above 6% to well over 9%, it takes no Arthur Finkelstein to understand that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu faces a serious electoral threat that has nothing to do with the peace process, to which he dedicates the bulk of his time.

The situation is particularly alarming from Netanyahu's viewpoint since – unlike the 1992 labor crisis, which affected mainly new immigrants from the former Soviet Union – today's unemployed often come from traditional Likud constituencies of unskilled laborers in peripheral settlements.

Faced with this predicament, politicians are prone to seek monetary and fiscal expansion, which means lowering interest rates and increasing public spending.

But interest rates have been lower for more than half a year, and our public spending, at slightly more than half of gross domestic product, is already among the developed world's highest.

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NEWS
in brief

Lewinsky meets with US prosecutors

WASHINGTON (AP) – Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky met yesterday with prosecutors investigating an alleged presidential affair and cover-up, sources familiar with the US probe said. The meeting took several hours.

Meanwhile, in a victory for independent counsel Kenneth Starr, a federal appeals court yesterday ordered US presidential aide Bruce Lindsey to submit to grand jury questioning in the Lewinsky investigation.

Starr is seeking to get Lindsey, who is employed by the federal government, to testify about private discussions he had with Clinton regarding the Lewinsky case.

PM cancels attendance at Histadrut convention

The Prime Minister's Office announced last night that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would not attend a Histadrut convention in Jerusalem today.

It denied that the reason for the cancellation was a reported dispute about whether Netanyahu or President Ezer Weizman would deliver the opening address.

"There is no problem between the Prime Minister's Office and the President's bureau," it said. "Netanyahu will not arrive at the convention because of his tight schedule." *Jerusalem Post Staff*

British youth killed, 4 injured in car accident

A 19-year-old British volunteer at Kibbutz Sha'ar Ha'amakim was killed yesterday afternoon when a van he was riding in flipped over. The driver, an 18-year-old British volunteer and three other volunteers in the vehicle, were lightly injured and taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. Police believe that the driver lost control of the van. *Itim*

Bentsur seeks to calm Arab anger over J'lem

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur said yesterday that he saw no reason why tomorrow's conclave of the 16-member Jerusalem Committee in Morocco should produce anti-Israel resolutions in reprisal for the proposed expansion of the municipality's administrative control. "We hope the participants will opt for realism," Bentsur said, and urged them to "accept the mayor of Jerusalem's explanations that creation of an umbrella municipality was merely a municipal issue." He also called on them to take note of the religious freedom and the development under way "in all parts of the city for the benefit of all of its inhabitants, Arab as well as Jewish." *Jay Bushinsky*

Mordechai: US to blame for Iran missile efforts

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said in an interview to be published today that he holds the United States and the West responsible for Iran's successful ballistic missile endeavor.

"The United States first and foremost and all the nations of Europe won't be absolved from responsibility if the Iranians succeed in developing non-conventional weapons and long-range, surface-to-surface missiles."Mordechai was quoted as telling the French magazine *Politique Internationale*.

Mordechai also said that Russia was capable of halting aid given by Russian firms to Iran. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Ziv Chen questioned under caution

Ziv Chen, the ex-boyfriend of convicted traitor Nahum Manbar's former lawyer Pninat Yanai, was questioned under caution yesterday, indicating he may be charged with a crime.

Police sources said Chen, who was questioned for more than 13 hours Sunday, was interrogated for more than 10 hours yesterday concerning his High Court affidavit alleging impropriety between Yanai and Tel Aviv District Court Judge Amnon Strashnov, who sentenced Manbar this month to 16 years in prison for selling poison gas material to Iran. Police finished questioning Manbar's wife, Francine, yesterday. *Gil Hoffman*

Officials say King Hussein had chemotherapy

Jordan's King Hussein has undergone chemotherapy treatment at an American hospital following reports he may have lymphatic cancer, Jordanian officials said yesterday. The king's brother, Crown Prince Hassan, said the monarch may soon leave the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, after initial treatment but would remain in the Midwestern state for a "period of rest."

"We hope to hear the good results of the first stage of treatment in the coming two days, and the king will possibly leave hospital in the coming few days," Hassan told Jordanian soldiers Sunday. His remarks were published by Amman dailies yesterday. The king is expected to deliver a message to the Jordanian people today about his diagnosis and the results of treatment. *AP*

Entebbi resigns as MDA head

Prof. Shlomi Entebbi, president of Magen David Adom, "jointly decided" with Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday that he would resign after less than two years in the post. Entebbi, 58 and married, was sentenced to perform 150 days of community service after confessing to performing an indecent act on his secretary when he was Kupat Holim Clalit's district physician in Tel Aviv. According to evidence presented in the Tel Aviv District Court, which agreed to a plea bargain, Entebbi reached under her clothes and touched her breasts against the secretary's will. According to a Health Ministry announcement, Matza and Entebbi "reached an agreement" that the MDA president would leave his post and that the minister will look for a replacement. *Judy Siegel*

Palestinian's organs save four Israelis

A Palestinian family said yesterday that it had donated four organs from its son's body to Israeli Jews in a gesture they said defied often tense relations between Israelis and Palestinians. "We thought of the donation as a purely humanitarian issue, no matter what were the patients' nationalities, they were human beings," said Abdel-Halim Bawadi, brother of Farid Bawadi who was killed in a car accident on Thursday.

His family agreed to donate several organs from his body after 35-year-old Bawadi, from the Bureij refugee camp in Gaza, was declared brain dead. Surgeons transplanted two kidneys, the liver and the heart into four patients. *Reuters*

Correction

Contrary to the statement that the Maccabi World Union had not sent "any message of condolence to the victims' families" in the report "Demo at the Yarkon marks one year since Maccabiah bridge collapse" (July 15), Maccabi World Union did in fact, among other things, send a personal condolence letter to each bereaved family, signed by the movement's president and chairman.

With deep sorrow we have learned of the passing of

Advocate

GERSHON KAPONI

a great friend of Yugoslavia

We express our sincere condolences to his wife Olga and children.

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Tel Aviv

Pullback talks to resume today

By JAY BUSHINSKY, MOHAMMED NAJIB and news agencies



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (left) shakes hands with Mahmoud Abbas, deputy chairman of the Palestinian Authority, at a meeting about security issues yesterday. (Reuters)

Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams are expected to resume negotiations today over the next IDF pullback, although talks between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and deputy Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas appear to be on hold pending PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's return from abroad.

A main issue of today's talks is expected to be Israel's proposal to turn 3 percent of a proposed 13% stretch of land to be given to the Palestinians into a nature reserve under joint Israeli-Palestinian security control. The suggested park would be in an uninhabited swath of the Judean Desert.

The Israeli negotiating team is headed by Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's legal adviser, Yitzhak Molcho, while the Palestinian team leaders are Saeb Erekat, the chief negotiator, and security chief Mohammad Dahlan.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said after meeting Abbas at a Jerusalem hotel yesterday that they had agreed to renew committee talks on safe passage for Palestinians between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We hope to complete the work that was begun beforehand, but interrupted and halted," Kahalani said.

He also demanded the extradition of Palestinian murder suspects and asked Abbas for help in learning the fate of three soldiers missing in action since the Sultan Yaacob battle of the 1982 Lebanon War.

Other topics discussed included the opening of an airport and seaport in Gaza.

The Palestinians demanded the release of prisoners including some under administrative detention and the creation of a joint industrial park at Karni.

Miguel Moratinos, the European Union's envoy to the Middle East, said yesterday in Damascus that the French-Egyptian idea of an international conference to revive the peace process is "taking shape."

He added that the idea still had "to adapt to the different positions of each party. The success of this initiative would bring the peace process back on track."

Moratinos leaves today for Lebanon and is expected to return to Israel later in the week.

In Austria yesterday, Arafat asked the EU to increase pressure on Israel to agree to US proposals for the second withdrawal.

"We need US and EU pressure on Israel so that it will return to the talks table and achieve peace in the region," Arafat said after meeting Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima, whose country holds the EU presidency.

Rubinstein demands court prevent terrorist's release

By DAN IZENBERG

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein yesterday submitted an urgent petition to the High Court of Justice asking it to issue a temporary injunction to prevent the Prisons Service from releasing convicted terrorist Ziyad Musa Zayyad from jail tomorrow.

The Prisons Service Parole Board decided last week to deduct one-third of Zayyad's sentence on the grounds that an accomplice had been released after completing two-thirds of his jail term.

Zayyad was sentenced to 12 years in prison in 1990 after being convicted of killing a suspected collaborator and belonging to the illegal Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Rubinstein accused the parole board of ignoring a High Court ruling to withdraw an earlier decision to release Zayyad. The court had instructed the parole board to study a secret report by the General Security Service before making up its mind. According to Rubinstein, the board had refused to read the report before making its first decision, on June 3, to release Zayyad.

On July 20, the board met again. Its members said they had already read the secret report, and refused to hear behind-closed-doors testimony from GSS agents.

Zayyad, who was represented by attorney Avigdor Feldman, argued that other members of the PFLP, including Munir Abu Diab, who was convicted of the same crimes as Zayyad, had been given early releases.

But the state argued that Zayyad's case could not be compared to that of Diab.

He had already been jailed for terrorist crimes and committed the new ones just a few months after being released from his first prison term.

During his second term, he had participated in three riots. In addition, there was the secret GSS information. All that adds up to the fact that "there is a heavy suspicion that Zayyad will continue with his violent activities as a member of the PFLP as soon as he is released from prison," the state argued.

Shoval supports low-key US role in peace talks

By HILLEL KUTLER

WASHINGTON – Too intensive an American role in the peace process is not healthy for US-Israel relations, Israeli ambassador to Washington Zalman Shoval said yesterday.

In his first speech since taking over the post two weeks ago, Shoval told the Washington Institute for Near East Policy that while the current American role as a facilitator in the talks was appropriate, if Washington were to assume the role of a judge, it would be "not helpful" and "could create bilateral disagreements in the future between us and the US.

"I would like to see a more intensive role between the parties themselves, and less with the US," Shoval said.

Before final status negotiations, Jerusalem must convey to Washington what its red lines "are, will be, and won't be negotiable," he added.

"We will have to see to it that there's a better understanding of... where we can't go."

Shoval added that while relations between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and US President Bill Clinton may be strained, "as important as that may be, the closeness of the [bilateral] relationship is unharmed and I believe will continue to grow."

He said he expects the US to stick to Clinton's policy of leaving security decisions to Israel and that "we will be able to overcome the temporary difficulties in the relationship."

Shoval said that the gap between Israel and the Palestinians is "as narrow as can be" and could be bridged "within a few days, if not a few hours."

Shoval also criticized last week's passage of a treaty establishing an international criminal court that included an item, sponsored by Egypt and Syria, classifying as a war crime the transfer of populations to occupied territories.

"I have an urge, when I get back to Israel, to buy a house in the territories," he said. "Let them declare me a war criminal."

Thousands attend rally on 'evil speech'

By HAIM SHAPIRO

By going to a conference on "guarding the tongue," Linda Kelleman said yesterday that she hopes to make the world just a little bit better.

Kelleman was one of some 10,000 women planning to attend last night's conference at the Jerusalem International Convention Center (Binyanei Ha'uma), to hear exhortations against *lashon hara* ("evil speech").

However, as she pointed out, the laws concerning *lashon hara* include but go beyond forbidding saying bad things to people, slandering people, or gossiping.

The project bringing women together during the nine days before Tisha Be'av to study the laws of *lashon hara* began 14 years ago in one of the haredi neighborhoods of Jerusalem.

This week there were about 200 study groups meeting in synagogues and schools before coming together for the central gathering at the JICC. The classes were in Hebrew, English, French and Yiddish.

Last night's gathering featured Hebrew-speaking lecturers; a similar rally in English is to take place tomorrow night at the same venue.

In addition to the Jerusalem gatherings, there are similar events in Haifa, Beit Shemesh and Kiryat Sefer, as well as in the US, Canada and South Africa.

Perhaps the most extraordinary thing about the project is that it tries to cut across the religious community's political and organizational lines.

"We don't represent any party or group," said an organizer, who asked that she not be named.

At a class at Beit Knesset Hanassi on Jerusalem's Rehov Ussishkin yesterday afternoon, over 100 women representing a cross-section of the Orthodox English-speaking public listened as Rabbi David Orlofsky spoke to them, interspersing his moral message with stories and anecdotes.

A smaller gathering for men is scheduled to take place in Jerusalem's Har Nof neighborhood tonight.

Labor backs Shetreet

By AMY KLEIN

The Labor Party will not run with the Likud under Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert in the upcoming municipal elections, and will continue to support Shimon Shetreet's candidacy for mayor, the party decided last night.

A special Labor panel dealing with the Jerusalem elections met at the Knesset last night to review the party's decision to back Shetreet and his One Jerusalem list. Recently, MK Shimon Peres and Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg had called for withdrawing support from Shetreet and running with Olmert on a joint list.

Shetreet had filed an official complaint with the Labor Party on Sunday to demand an end to the talks with Olmert.

The decision to support Shetreet came in a vote by MKs and other party activists attending the meeting, including Ehud Barak, Avraham Shohat, Avraham Burg, Ra'anan Cohen, Micha Goldman, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Haim Cohen, Dalia Itzik and Tzaly Reshef. Burg, Ben-Eliezer and Shohat opposed the decision.

Shetreet was not invited to the meeting, but was informed of the outcome shortly after.

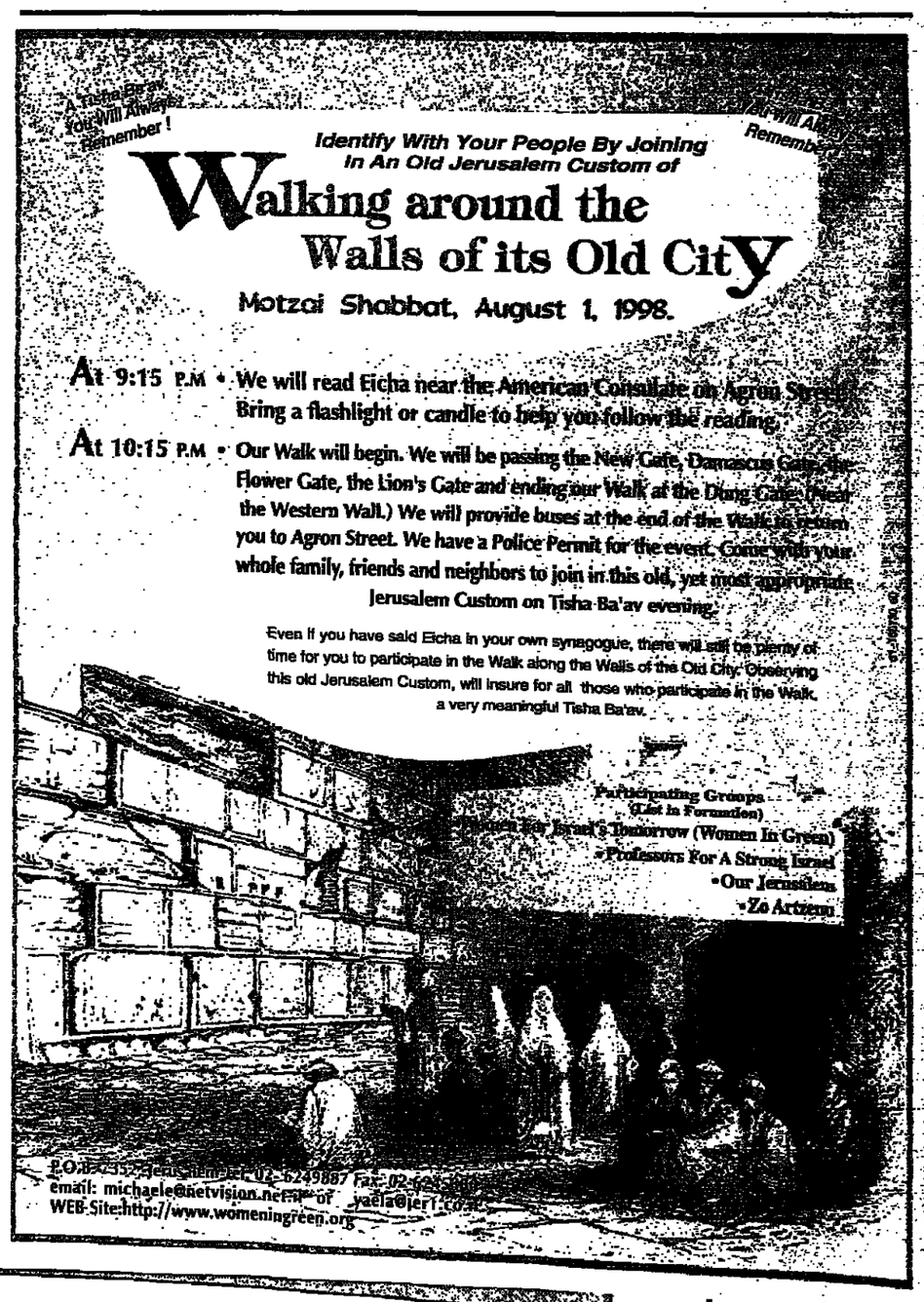
ANALYSIS

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Evidently a serious treatment of the labor crisis only can come in the form of sharply reduced public spending. This would allow for a genuine tax cut, which in turn would accelerate non-state-sponsored economic activity, or sustainable growth.

Yet trimming government activity only can be achieved by biting deep into an assortment of small parties' vested interests, from yeshiva funding to new-immigrants' mortgages.

It follows that the only way to effectively defeat unemployment is to establish a Likud-Labor government that would not be held hostage by small-interest groups, just like the unity government which beat hyperinflation in 1985.



Soldiers complaining less – IDF

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Contrary to popular opinion, soldiers are complaining less than in the past and the biggest drop in complaints last year came from reservists serving in combat units, according to Col. Ahuva Yanai, the outgoing IDF public complaints officer.

Yanai cited the intensive efforts to ease and shorten reserve duty during the past two years as the reason reservists are complaining less. Presenting the statistics for 1997 at a Tel Aviv press conference yesterday, Yanai said 7,307 complaints were received by her office last year, representing a 7.6 percent drop from the previous year.

Half the complaints reaching her office come from men and women doing compulsory service. She said her office is making an extra effort to reach out to minority and immigrant troops, with four Russian-speaking complaint officers and one Amharic-speaking officer.

Most of the complaints from conscripts revolve around unit assignments, money, and service conditions. Soldiers also complain about unfair treatment by their commanders, who are often accused of ignoring medical instructions.

One case she cited involved a soldier who was forced to open an IDF stretcher by banging it with his head. The soldier was injured, his medical profile lowered as a result, and he was disqualified from combat duty. "This is no doubt lifelong damage," Yanai said.

In this decade, the army has seen a rise in the number of complaints filed by parents and relatives of soldiers. Today some 20 percent of all complaints are made by parents, the most common being the lack of sleep their children are getting and collective punishments. Another popular complaint expresses dissatisfaction with the unit to which their child is assigned.

One of the most difficult complaints came from a mother who had two sons serving in Lebanon at the same time and wanted that stopped. Yanai said that careful examination of military regulations did not find any that forbid two brothers serving on the battlefront. The matter was even more complicated by the fact that the mother had filed the complaint without her sons' knowledge. With a heavy heart, Yanai found the complaint unjustified.

Yanai, whose husband is OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai, is retiring from service and is being replaced by Lt. Col. Devora Hasid.



Remembering terror victims

Buenos Aires Mayor Fernando De La Rua, a candidate for Argentinean president, looks yesterday at a list of the victims of the July 1994 bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, after planting a tree at the JNF forest at Ben-Shemen dedicated to their memory. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

Jet trainer crashes

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

An IAF A-4 Skyhawk jet crashed in the Judean foothills yesterday during a routine training flight, but both aviators – an instructor and pilot cadet – ejected and landed safely, the IDF Spokesman said.

The IDF said a technical malfunction caused the crash, but OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu has appointed a board of inquiry to examine the accident.

This was the fourth aircraft crash so far this year and the second training mishap in less than a week. Last Tuesday, a low-flying F-15 cut the power to Eilat briefly when it struck a high-tension wire and brought down an electricity pylon in the Negev.

Yesterday's TA-4H Skyhawk crash occurred around 3:20 p.m. just north of the Tarkumiya crossing on the road to Hebron. The crash site was about 11 km east of Beit Guvrin, just beyond the Green Line in what the IDF said was Area C.

"I saw two parachutists coming down and a few seconds later there was a loud explosion," said Ziad Abu Haltam, who was driving on the road to his home in Tarkumiya.

The Skyhawk was heading south with two other A-4s, he said, when it narrowly missed the village by some 350 meters and plowed into a cut wheat field, setting it alight as the single jet engine exploded. Pieces of the trainer were scattered for hundreds of meters. IAF officers said the jet was not armed.

"I ran up to the pilots and told them, 'Don't be scared. I am here to help you,' " said Abu Haltam. "They were confused and I gave them my mobile phone to call, but the pilot told me he couldn't remember any numbers. I saw a piece of radio equipment on the ground and gave it to them and told them to call for help, which they did."

"I undid their belts. I cleaned the blood off their faces. But they weren't hurt very badly. They were just kids," he said.

With hundreds of villagers looking on, IDF officers combed the field and olive groves for clues to the crash. Video tape carried in the jet was collected in a plastic bag.

"As a Palestinian and a human being I wanted to help them. Even though the next day they could be bombing our refugee camps in Lebanon. I hope that they think back on the day a Palestinian cared for them and maybe they'll think twice about bombing," Abu Haltam said, adding he hopes to meet the pilots someday – "only next time they drop in, they should come in a car."

The US-made Skyhawks arrived here in December 1967 and 52 were shot down in the Yom Kippur War. Today there is just one squadron still in actived service and they are used in advance training for fighter pilots and navigators.

Wallerstein dismisses report on Arutz 7 indictment

By GIL HOFFMAN

Binyamin Regional Council head Pinhas Wallerstein said yesterday he has not heard from the State Attorney's Office on whether charges will be filed against him or from police about whether their investigation of Arutz 7 has been completed.

Wallerstein dismissed a report in *Yediot Aharonot* that police have completed the investigation and will recommend that he be indicted along with some 30 Arutz 7 staffers, calling it "speculation."

"If there will be an indictment by the state attorney, then I will give my opinion," Wallerstein told Israel Radio. According to the report, Wallerstein would be charged with permitting the station to operate from territory within his jurisdiction.

The Arutz 7 employees against whom police want to file charges include station manager Ya'acov Katz, technical manager Yoel Tsur, news editor Haggai Segal, broadcaster Adir Zik and Beit El Yeshiva head Rabbi Zalman Melamed, a member of the station's board of directors.

Reacting to the list, Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said, "It would be an interesting scenario if they decide to indict the staff of Arutz 7. In the event of an indictment, we feel that all the dignitaries who have appeared on the station, including Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, should also be investigated for cooperating with 'illegal' radio broadcasts."

The police investigation into whether Arutz 7 is operating illegally began two months ago, with a raid of the station's recording studio in Beit El, and its transmitters in Har Bracha and Psagot.

Police have questioned the station's managers, directors, broadcasting personnel, technicians and advertising staff.

Since the beginning of the investigation, all the suspects have exercised their right to remain silent during questioning, according to national police spokesman Elihu Ben-On.

Arutz 7 has suspended its broadcasts for the nine-day mourning period preceding Tisha Be'av.

Aviv Bushinsky leading candidate to replace Bazak

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Aviv Bushinsky, Army Radio's diplomatic reporter, is the leading candidate to replace Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak, who is reportedly leaving his post.

Other candidates for the job include Channel 1's Gil Tamari, the education minister's spokesman, Yitzhak Rath, and Ramat Gan spokesman Memi Pe'er.

Bazak was implicated in the Strashnov Affair, when it was alleged he had told attorney Pninat Yanai, who was then on the team defending convicted traitor Nahum Manbar, that if Manbar were convicted, Netanyahu would accuse former prime ministers Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin of trying to cover up his crimes.

Yanai told this to Manbar's wife Francine, who recorded the conversation.

Both Bazak and Yanai denied they had discussed the issue, and Yanai said she had lied to Francine Manbar when she told her this.

But it was hard to explain how Yanai had so accurately predicted the allegation against Rabin and Peres – which Netanyahu was later quoted as making – and suspicion fell on Bazak.

Bazak earlier this week denied he is leaving his position and stressed he has the prime minister's full support.

But Netanyahu is reportedly considering him for an attractive diplomatic appointment abroad, as compensation for having to leave his post.

Bazak was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Army Radio asked Bushinsky to go on leave this week, following weekend reports that he was negotiating for the post of Netanyahu's spokesman.

Bushinsky, who previously served as Israel Radio police reporter, was briefly the center of controversy when his coverage of the Bar-On Affair investigation angered many of his colleagues in the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

IBA sources complained Bushinsky's reports were biased in favor of Netanyahu and others involved in the affair, whom the police had recommended indicting.

Eitan: Ministries not ready for 2000 bug

By JUDY SIEGEL

The majority of government ministries have failed to prepare for the "2000 bug" that threatens to affect computer operations around the world starting January 1, 2000, deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office Michael Eitan said yesterday.

Speaking to the Knesset Science and Technology Committee, whose subcommittee has held five meetings about the problem, the former science minister said the ministries were guilty of failing to implement a government decision taken in June 1996 to head off complications from the problem. The computer problems will result from programs using two digits for dates in the 20th century, rather than four digits for those in the 21st.

MK Alex Lubotzky (The Third Way), who heads the subcommittee, called on the prime minister to name an authoritative person to ensure that state offices prepare themselves for the millennium. He noted that not only will six million Israelis be here on New Year's Eve 2000, but a million Christians also will be on hand to mark the 2,000th anniversary (more or less) of the birth of Jesus.

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Court to rule on Deri's immunity

By DAN IZENBERG

The High Court of Justice is expected today to hand down a ruling on petitions contesting the Knesset House Committee's decision to postpone a vote on Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's request to lift Shas MK Aryeh Deri's parliamentary immunity so he can be indicted on charges of fraud and breach of trust.

The petition has been billed as a test of the balance of power between the Knesset and the High Court, since justices are being asked to overrule a Knesset proceeding.

Amitai, one of the two petitioners, is asking the court to nullify the committee's decision. The other petitioner, the Movement for Quality Government, said in a hearing on July 20 that it would be satisfied if the court ruled that Deri could not be prevented from being prosecuted if the statute of limitations went into effect because of the postponement.

During that hearing, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak pointedly asked both petitioners if a ruling on the statute of limitations would satisfy them. He reiterated the court's long-standing reluctance to interfere in Knesset proceedings.

The statute of limitations is due to go into effect on August 1, five years after the end of an investigation into the allegations against Deri – unless the court rules that the countdown was suspended as soon as the Knesset received the attorney-general's request to lift the SHas MK's immunity.

The court has never ruled on this matter before. When they voted in favor of the postponement on June 23, members of the House Committee said they assumed the countdown had been suspended once Knesset proceedings began.

Deri is accused of fraud and breach of trust by a public servant for allegedly forcing local authorities to channel government money to haredi institutions while serving as Interior Minister and director-general of the ministry. Many beneficiaries of Deri's system were close to Deri personally, or to Shas.

Rubinstein has refused to defend the committee to the High Court because he believed it had been wrong to postpone the vote on his request.

Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar has told the court that if it ruled that the countdown for the statute of limitations had not been suspended, the committee would immediately hold a vote on Rubinstein's request.

Nimrodi petitions High Court:

'Yediot''s Mozes must stand trial

By DAN IZENBERG

Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrodi petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday, calling on it to nullify the decision of the State Attorney's Office not to prosecute Arnon Mozes, the chief editor and chairman of the board of directors of *Yediot Aharonot*.

Acting Justice Hanoch Ariel ordered the sides to prepare their responses and decided that the petition would be heard by a panel of three justices. No date has yet been set for the hearing.

Nimrodi, represented by attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak, demanded that Mozes and Haim Rosenberg, who is in charge of security at *Yediot*, be tried for a host of charges beginning with wiretapping.

Nimrodi and his security chief, David Ronen, were convicted of wiretapping last month. Nimrodi was sentenced to eight months in jail.

The former editor and news editor of *Yediot Aharonot* were also convicted of wiretapping.

In the petition, Nimrodi charged that he had been discriminated against and received radically different treatment from Mozes because of Mozes's commanding position as editor of the country's largest newspaper, the newspaper's other media interests, and Mozes's wealth.

"Mozes is one of a handful of men who have the greatest possible influence both among the public at large and the various government authorities," said Nimrodi. "He also wields great economic power."

On April 27, 1998, the Justice Ministry announced that it had decided not to press charges against Mozes and Rosenberg. Nimrodi said the decision and the reasons given for it were "astonishing and raised questions."

Nimrodi included affidavits from a number of retired police officers, including former deputy commander Zion Sasson, who was involved in the investigation of Mozes and Rosenberg.

"I was absolutely amazed when I learned from the media that the State Attorney's Office had decided to close the file and not press charges against them," he wrote. "The decision and the reasons given for it totally contradict the facts as they were uncovered and verified during the investigation."

Nimrodi singled out Tel Aviv District Attorney (Criminal Division) Miriam Rosenthal and indicated that she had close ties to the top echelon at *Yediot Aharonot*.

He wrote that she had disqualified herself from involvement in another investigation involving Mozes and *Yediot* investigative reporter Mordechai Gilat because Gilat was a close personal friend. This time she did not disqualify herself.

"[Rosenthal] initiated the astonishing decision [not to press charges] and was the living spirit behind it," wrote Nimrodi.

He also accused State Attorney Edna Arbel of refusing to accept the testimony of private investigator Ze'ev Laufer, who allegedly provided incriminating information against Mozes and Rosenberg.

Arbel prevented him from turning state's witness because he had received money from *Ma'ariv* in return for waiving his right to remain silent.

Former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair and other senior justice and police officials had earlier agreed to Laufer's testimony even though they knew he had received money from *Ma'ariv*, said Nimrodi.

Ministry aims to stop doctors from taking commercial junkets

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry is in the process of amending regulations that will prevent doctors in the public hospitals from going on holidays paid for by commercial firms to promote the use of their products.

Rules were issued by the ministry in 1993, according to director-general Prof. Gabi Barabash, but there were loopholes that have to be closed.

Two hundred physicians who were supposed to fly to Turkey yesterday for a four-day "symposium" at the expense of the Teva pharmaceutical company had to unpack their bags at the last moment – by order of Health Minister Yehoshua Matza.

He canceled the trip, arguing that it was meant to promote sales of a new drug, Cardura-XL, that Teva markets.

In a letter to Teva, Matza said he accepted his office's recommendations to cancel the trip, because it "harmed public and ethical considerations."

Teva initially chose 200 internists, urologists and other specialists and personally invited them to take part in the four-day event.

But when the company was told that personal invitations were not permitted by Health Ministry regulations, it contacted public hospitals and asked them to choose representatives.

When ministry medical services division director Dr. Yitzhak Berlovich learned of the plan, he informed ministry decisionmakers, and after deliberations that included Matza and Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander, it was decided to take the unprecedented step of calling the trip off.

The new regulations will not affect doctors in private medical institutions, but Barabash wants them to include physicians in voluntary hospitals and other public bodies that are not owned by the government or Kupat Holim Clalit.

Doctors may, through research funds, have pharmaceutical companies subsidize their participation in scientific conferences organized by professional bodies, but not conferences organized by commercial firms themselves, Barabash declared.

Knesset may vote on disputed public housing bill today

By LIAT COLLINS

The disputed public housing bill being promoted by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), which would allow residents of public housing to buy their homes at a discount, can come up for second and third readings this week, following a decision yesterday by the Knesset House Committee.

The committee rejected a request by coalition and Likud whip Meir Sheetrit, who two weeks ago got the cabinet to approve regulations he drew up on the issue, to declare Cohen's bill "new." This would have required it to go back through all the previous committee stages and preliminary and first readings.

Sheetrit had claimed that, since there were now government regulations on the issue, any further legislation had to go back to square one and be debated again, taking the new circumstances into account. Instead, the bill could be voted on tonight.

Both Cohen's bill and Sheetrit's regulations would allow long-term residents of public housing to buy their homes at a large discount.

But whereas Cohen's bill emphasizes the number of years of residency in determining the size of the discount, the regulations focus on the location of the apartment, giving preferential terms to those living in development towns and peripheral areas.

Outside the Knesset yesterday, demonstrators pressed for passage of Cohen's bill. They said Cohen's bill is more generous than Sheetrit's regulations, and that the regulations discriminate against those living in large cities.

The argument between Cohen and Sheetrit has dogged Cohen's bill and at one point Sheetrit turned the vote on it into a no-confidence motion to delay its passage, despite the anomaly of a coalition whip filing a motion of no-confidence in his own prime minister.

Sheetrit is now threatening to file more than 1,000 reservations to the bill if it comes up for second reading this evening, which could result in hours of discussion and require it to be returned to committee.

He might also call again to turn the vote into a no-confidence motion, which would postpone it until after the three-month recess.

Cohen said the bill should be passed by the end of this Knesset session even if the session has to be extended by a day, to Thursday, to do so.

Sheetrit, on the other hand, said: "There is no way the Knesset can finish the legislation of this law before [tomorrow], when it leaves for recess. The opposition cannot pass a bill through violence."

Sheetrit complained at the Knesset House Committee meeting yesterday that he had not been allowed to address the Knesset Economic Committee, chaired by Labor's Avi Yehezkel, when it discussed Cohen's bill.

Cohen accused Sheetrit of "playing a dirty trick which was aimed at sabotaging the bill which is expected to have a majority, and harming thousands of families who could purchase their homes if it passes."



Labor MK Shevah Weiss addresses a rally outside the Knesset yesterday, called in support of Meretz MK Ran Cohen's bill to allow public housing residents to buy their homes at a discount. (Kevin Unger)

Automatic citizenship bill passes first read

The Knesset yesterday passed on a first reading a bill by Meretz leader Yossi Sarid to grant non-Jewish, first-degree relatives of IDF soldiers automatic citizenship under the Law of Return.

The vote was 53 to 28 with five abstentions. It was delayed from last week when religious parties sought to turn the vote into a motion of no-confidence.

AT THE KNESSET
BY LIAT COLLINS

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky insisted that the government support the bill on the understanding it would be amended in committee between first and second readings.

An amendment proposed by Yisrael Ba'aliya whip Roman Bronfman would apply the bill only to relatives of soldiers who have obtained citizenship under the Law of Return.

Bronfman said this would cover "scores and perhaps hundreds" of families of soldiers. Gafni maintained that there are 120 such cases.

In a separate meeting, Interior Minister Eli Suissa (Shas) suggested that the Interior and Immigration and Absorption ministries establish a joint committee to handle the cases of soldiers' relatives who have been denied citizenship until now.

Sarid called the bill "a message to the religious parties that we are fed up and won't take any more."

Others among the bill's supporters were four Gesher MKs and three Likud MKs as well as the Third Way's Alex Lubotzky. Only six Likud MKs were opposed. Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi was among the five abstentions.

Ending Russian aid to Iran

In a meeting with visiting members of the Russian Security and Defense Committee, MK Ephraim Sneh (Labor) said yesterday that "Russian aid to Iran represents a strategic question for Israel's existence and Russia must stop it."

He presented the delegation with a list of five Russian companies allegedly helping to develop the Iranian Shihab 3 missile project.

Sneh said that these companies do not appear on a list that the Russian government has announced would be investigated for exporting know-how to Iran. He said this means there is reason to believe the aid is continuing.

The delegation, led by Ryabov Alexander Ivanovich, the committee chairman, and Deputy Chief-of-General-Staff Klishin Mikail Viktorovich, said that Russia is taking action and that Israel need not be so worried.

Annexation bill

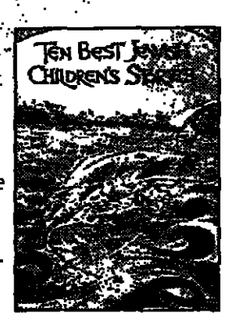
MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) has submitted a bill to require an 80 MK majority for any vote to annex territory. She said the measure was needed to handle a possibility that the government would try to make border changes next year when the interim period defined in the Oslo Accords is scheduled to end.

"If the government carries out acts of annexation it could bring about a disaster from a point of view of diplomacy and security," Chazan said.



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Knesset panel debates state's role in promoting Jewish education abroad

By LIAT COLLINS

Some 70 percent of Diaspora Jewish youth get no Jewish education, according to figures presented yesterday to the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, which discussed Jewish education in the world.

The committee also reviewed a plan that would bring Jewish youths to Israel for 10-day visits in the year 2000, in a project jointly funded by the state and foreign donors.

"The state should take more responsibility on itself for the whole Jewish people and be much more involved in the overseas communities," committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said. "It's almost the only guarantee of the continued existence of the Jewish people in the Diaspora."

Amos Hermon, who chairs the board of the Jewish Agency's education division, reported that only 50% of Jewish youth in the Diaspora get any Jewish education.

"I am a partner to your concerns for the future of [Jewish] youth there and its link to Judaism and Israel," he said.

He said some 15,000 young people from Western countries visit Israel annually at the initiative of the Jewish Agency, and another 100,000 Jewish youths take part in summer camps abroad operated by the Jewish Agency.

He said the Jewish Agency's operations are dependent on donated funds, which are dropping.

"The government must recognize that the young generation in the Diaspora represents a strategic asset and should invest suitable resources to bring the younger generation closer to Israel," Hermon said.

The prime minister's adviser for Diaspora affairs, Bobby Brown, told the committee the premier had agreed to establish a fund run by the state, Jewish groups and Jewish donors "which aims to bring every Diaspora Jewish child for a visit to Israel as early as by the year 2000."

He said the government is also acting to try to reduce the high tuitions in Jewish schools abroad.

MK Shmuel Halpert (United Torah Judaism), who initiated the committee discussion, said the low rate of involvement in Jewish education explained the high assimilation rate.

"If this situation continues, we will in effect be lost. In another generation or two they won't even know they are Jewish," he said.

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) also said the government should be more active "or we will lose a large part of the Jewish people."

Binyamin Ish-Shalom, director of Beit Morasha, the Center for Advanced Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, told the committee there is a drop in the motivation of Jewish communities abroad to support Jewish education.

"The distance between these communities and the state is widening and we are responsible," he said.

The director of Beit Hatefusoth, David Alexander, presented a survey which indicated that 37.4% of Israelis believe Diaspora relations today are weaker than they have been in the past, 17.6% believe they are stronger and 32% believe there has been no change.

More secular Jews are convinced the relationship has weakened (43.2%) compared to traditional Jews (33%) and religious Jews (31.4%).

Almost a third of those surveyed (31%) believe Israeli schools should teach about the Diaspora and Jewish schools abroad should learn about Israel. Just over 24% believe Israeli and Diaspora schools should adopt each other.

Drori won't be replaced at Antiquities Authority

By AMY KLEIN

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy will not remove Antiquities Authority Director Amir Drori, but plans to add four rabbis to the Archeological Council, the minister's spokesman said yesterday.

The decision follows last week's meeting between the minister and the members of the Israel Archeological Council, which serves as an advisory body to the minister and oversees the Antiquities Authority.

Moshe Kochavi, the council's chairman, said council members voiced strong opposition in last week's meeting to the minister's reported plans to replace Drori because of pressure from the religious parties.

"We told him he can't appoint someone who is not professional," said Kochavi, "We will not cooperate with someone like that."

"Drori will complete his term as director," Levy's spokesman said. Drori's term ends in April 2000.

Drori said he preferred not to comment, because he had not officially heard from the minister or the ministry.

Kochavi does not know who the four new rabbis are that Levy promised to appoint, but said he hopes that have a "professional or public connection to archeology."

If they do not, he said, "We won't accept their appointment without a fight."

The council currently comprises 30 senior archeologists and representatives of bodies in related areas, such as the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

It has the power to approve all archeological work in Israel, and it oversees special subcommittees, such as one for preservation, and one for granting licenses for archeological digs.

But only professional archeologists can sit on those committees, Kochavi said.



Educating the Speaker

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon meets in his office yesterday with a group of student representatives, including David Tzalmin (left) and Yoav Heller (second from left), to discuss student demands for lower tuition. At right is Knesset Sergeant-at-Arms Yair Sela. (Isaac Harari)

Tel Aviv women fear serial rapist

By CATHERINE COHEN

Women in Tel Aviv are living in fear following reports a serial rapist may be responsible for two brutal rapes since Friday. The two victims, both young women, were beaten so badly after they were sexually assaulted that they had to be hospitalized.

Last Friday morning, a 27-year-old woman from the Philippines was raped at knifepoint in her Rehov Sokolov apartment and left so brutally beaten she had to be admitted to Ichilov Hospital. On Sunday evening, a 27-year-old Italian tourist on her way to visit a friend was raped in the stairwell of a building on Rehov Hahashmonaim. She, too, was hospitalized at Ichilov.

"She was supposed to come and visit me," said the victim's friend, attorney Hemi Kasif. "He must have caught her before she entered the elevator. He lay her on the floor, stomach down, and did this evil thing in the stairs. He knew she was a tourist, because he spoke to her in good English right away.

"She succeeded in reaching my apartment. I opened the door and was shocked to see her bleeding with abrasions on her face. She shook and screamed, 'It happened here! He's here! Call the police!' "

Kasif said the victim described the rapist as a skinny, dark-skinned man in his 20s with a dark ponytail and a low forehead, who spoke English well.

Cheryl Hechter, spokeswoman of the city's Rape Crisis Center, said that since the latest two rapes were made public, women have barraged the center with calls.

"Many more people are calling than usual. We are trying our best to meet the demand for information and to educate the public about rape," she said. "People are scared and worried, since this has hit too close to home."

Because of similar patterns of behavior, police believe these two cases may be connected to some of the other rapes committed in the city over the past two years and are investigating the possibility a serial rapist is lurking in Tel Aviv.

Three of the recent rape victims in the city are not Israeli citizens and police are awaiting the results of laboratory tests to confirm whether these cases are related.

A police spokesman said it is too soon to tell whether or not there is a serial rapist on the loose. "As of now, it seems that two of the rapes were committed by the same man, but we do not yet know about the rest," the spokesman said. "In the meantime, the police considers catching the rapist a priority and is doing all it can to do so."

NEWS
in brief

Ministry reassures on bovine growth hormone

The Health Ministry reiterated yesterday that there was "no proof" bovine growth hormone given to milk-producing animals causes any harm to humans.

The ministry was reacting to announcements by Tnuva and the Histadrut's Consumer Council opposing both the ministry's calming message and suggestions that the hormone be given to cows and sheep to increase milk production.

Ministry director-general Prof. Gabi Barabash said that both the World Health Organization and the US Department of Agriculture had reached the same conclusion about the safety of the hormone."Therefore, there is no reason to prevent the marketing of milk products from cows that received the hormone," the ministry declared. *Judy Siegel*

Dysentery in children on the rise

The number of children being hospitalized with dysentery due to the spread of bacteria such as shigella, has increased significantly during the past two months, doctors at Assaf Harofeh Hospital reported. The main symptom is diarrhea.

Prof. Mordechai Ajlgajam, the head of pediatrics at the Tzrifin hospital, reminds the public to take precautions by washing hands after using the toilet, soaking fruits and vegetables in soap and water, and cooking meat and poultry well. *Judy Siegel*

Ministry warns laser pointers are dangerous

The Environment Ministry issued a warning this week against the use of laser pointers in all forms – including on pens and key rings – saying that they can cause temporary blindness and in some cases irreparable damage to the eyes.

The ministry said it had accumulated evidence from around the world about the health hazards of finger pointers.

"It is prohibited in all cases to point the laser pointer in the direction of the face, and especially the eyes," the ministry statement said. "Children should not be permitted to play with the laser pointer, which is not a toy and can pose a real danger to the eye." *Itim*

Ice pops produced by Haifa factory said unsafe

Ice pops meant for freezing at home that were produced by the Karhonim factory in Haifa Bay are not safe, according to the Health Ministry, which found "foreign bodies" in the liquid-filled plastic bags. The ministry said the company has been making the product without a license. The district food service office learned two weeks ago that a fault in production occurred, but the factory never reported it to the authorities. The breakdown included a failure in the pasteurization process.

Samples were taken, and shops were asked to remove the product from their shelves. Anyone who bought the ice pops before that should not eat them, the ministry said. *Judy Siegel*

Thousands of teens join 'Israel Experience'

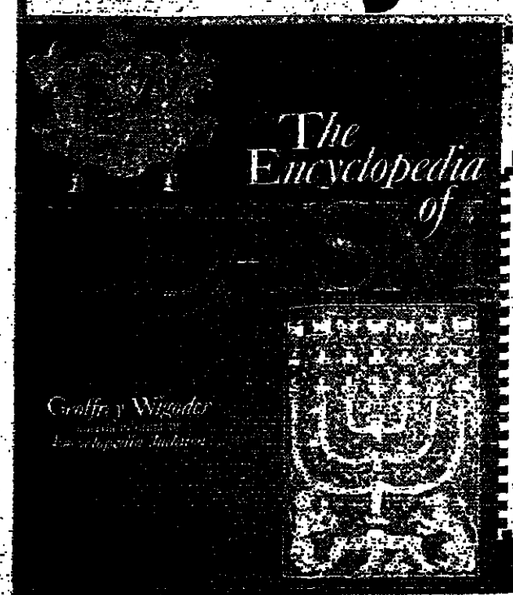
Over 8,000 teenagers from around the world between the ages of 16-18 have descended upon Israel for the Jewish Agency's "Israel Experience." Last week, 3,500 of these teenagers signed a copy of the Declaration of Independence in honor of Israel's 50th anniversary, after which they marched in formation from the Rose Garden to Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem.

The Israel Experience, a donor-funded project under the auspices of the educational division of the Jewish Agency, has brought over 13,000 students to Israel this year. The goal of the program is to have students experience Israel through seminars, lectures and tours. *Noah Streit*

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Watch Kazakhstan

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

When it is predicted that a generally unknown country is to become the biggest oil exporter in the world, the international community suddenly sits up and takes notice.

The country is Kazakhstan, and a recent agreement it signed with Moscow to demarcate claims to the Caspian Sea could make it, after Russia, one of the most important powers to emerge from the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Bulat Sarsenbayev, political counselor at the Kazakh embassy in Tel Aviv, said the importance of the Caspian agreement in global terms cannot be overemphasized. The oil reservoirs beneath the Caspian are believed to be vast, anywhere from five to 10 billion tons.

Since a main outlet for Kazakh oil will be a pipleline to Turkey's Mediterranean coast, the diplomat pointed out, Israel will be more than a little interested in this huge new source of non-Arab oil on its doorstep.

Most of us would be hard-pressed to visualize Kazakhstan without a reference book. It is one of those nations in the conglomeration of Central Asian states whose names end in "stan" – Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan. Stan means land, so these are the lands of the various regional tribes who give the newly independent countries their name.

Wedding bells

"Kazakh" means nomad, and Kazakhstan is the giant of the stans, wandering 3,000 km. from the Volga to China's Altai Mountains across its vast land area of 2.7 million sq.km. (For comparison, its neighbor Kyrgyzstan has an area of less than 200,000 sq.km.) With a population of 17 million, Kazakhstan therefore is a hugely empty place with an average of seven people per sq.km., compared to Israel's 250.

Earlier this month the daughter of the president of Kazakhstan married the son of the president of Kyrgyzstan. The wedding, at a mountain resort in Kyrgyzstan, had more than a hint of dynastic royalty about it and was attended by four Central Asian presidents. The American-educated couple may have married for love, but in Central Asia the politics of the event are also taken for granted. Kyrgyz and Kazakhs are virtually the same people – Kazakhs are of the plains and Kyrgyz of the mountains.

Kazakhstan sits on top of the Great Silk Road of ancient times and sees itself as the pivotal state linking Europe and the Far East. In the seven years since it gained independence for the first time, Kazakhstan is one of the few members of the old Soviet republics to give the impression that it has an appointment with destiny – and is set on fulfilling it.

Carve up

If its efforts have been passing unnoticed by the Western media, that may be because Kazakhstan's strategic interests are intertwined mainly with those of Russia and China, notwithstanding the red carpet treatment it gives to potential Western investors.

A significant piece of trivia: as well as oil, 99 elements of the periodic table can be extracted from Kazakhstan.

The Kazakhs have been tidying up their important relationships with skill and vigor. Kazakhstan now has established diplomatic ties with 100 countries. It has cultivated very close relations with Israel since diplomats were exchanged in 1992.

Regarding Russia, a landmark meeting between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev in June sealed three important agreements: a declaration of eternal friendship and cooperation, demarcation of sovereign rights in the northern Caspian and a protocol on Baikonur, the headquarters of the Soviet space program, which is in Kazakhstan. The space center will be rented to Russia for 25 years.

The Caspian agreement, which divides the northern seabed into Russian and Kazakh sectors on the median line principle, was a significant diplomatic coup for Kazakhstan, because it recognizes its claim to the oil near its coast and sets a precedent for future agreements. (It also provides equal access to fishing grounds).

Cheetah-stan

"Most deposits are in the north," said Sarsenbayev, "and we considered a quick agreement absolutely essential to make foreign investors in the oil industry feel comfortable, safe and secure."

The five Caspian states have argued for years over who owns the seabed oil. The three with oil near their coasts, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, want the sea divided into national sectors. But Russia and Iran, who have little or no oil on their Caspian coasts, wanted all the sea's resources to be shared among everyone. The issue of the southern Caspian sectors remains open.

Less high profile has been Kazakhstan's settlement of a border dispute with China dating back to the Soviet days – more than 90 percent of the disputed areas are now delineated.

The Kazakhs correctly apprehended their importance to China – for oil, for east-west air travel, for the transcontinental transit of goods. (The Kazakh foreign minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev was for years a diplomat to Beijing and speaks fluent Chinese.)

It was clear that rapidly developing China and increasingly important Kazakhstan could do without a squabble over empty mountain passes on remote borderlands. They are better left in the paws of nomad cheetahs and snow leopards.

Switzerland's identity crisis

Criticized as cold-hearted profiteers, the still staunchly neutral Swiss are struggling, in the midst of a rapidly integrating Europe, to look to the future with a sense of pride

By MICHAEL SHIELDS

ZURICH – Beautiful but unloved, Switzerland is suffering from a deep identity crisis as it celebrates its 150th anniversary as a modern state this year.

Painted by critics as cold-hearted profiteers from the misery of others, staunchly neutral amid growing political cohesion in Europe, the Swiss are struggling to look to the future with pride, confidence and a sense of belonging.

Peter Studer, editor-in-chief at Swiss Television, sees the search for identity rooted in the sweeping political changes that have crystallized around Switzerland, coupled with foreign critics' attacks over the country's World War II role.

"On the one hand it is Switzerland having to open itself up to face the new political form and content of Europe. This is taking place step by step," he said.

"On the other there is this Swiss bashing which is going on, especially in the United States, which is totally unexpected. Suddenly we are the evil guys of the world."

This image of being villains has come as a rude shock to the Swiss, long used to being admired for their high standard of living and top-quality products, if not especially well liked.

Europe's post-Cold War era dawned bleakly on Switzerland, ushering in seven years of economic stagnation that pushed unemployment at times to unheard-of levels above five percent.

Young people used to globetrotting between brief stints of well-paid employment at home suddenly found themselves unable to get any work, although the situation is starting to brighten now.

The European Union's integration left the neutral country out of step and isolated, a point driven home every time Swiss stand in line at passport controls with other non-EU citizens.

When accusations began to mount that Switzerland and its secretive banks had exploited World War II to enrich themselves, it became brutally clear to many Swiss that their country had no friends, only business partners.

"Many Swiss people are thrown into a state of uncertainty and start wondering how they are supposed to perceive themselves as Swiss," then-President Arnold Koller said last year as charges mounted that the Swiss had cashed in on the Holocaust.

"Many feel outraged and ask: Why? Why only now? And why Switzerland of all countries? Switzerland was neither involved in the deportations, nor did it know violent anti-Semitism. Why are we are the center of attention and not the others?"

Traditional Swiss mistrust of foreign entanglements – to the point of eschewing membership of the United Nations – came home to roost as the weak federal government in Bern did nothing initially to counter a growing tide of anti-Swiss sentiment.

Many Europeans felt a sense of "Schadenfreude" (enjoyment of other people's discomfort) as the smug Swiss – spared the direct impact of two world wars that devastated the continent – squirmed under intense scrutiny.

Negative headlines filled the vacuum left as the popular images of Switzerland as an Alpine wonderland of chocolate, fine watches, Heidi and yodeling shepherds evaporated.

Accusations that the Swiss were Hitler's bankers, hiding behind a charade of neutrality to do lucrative business, outraged a generation of Swiss who took up arms to defend their country against Nazi Germany and the Axis powers who draped a fascist noose around the country.

The attacks, which many Swiss thought were as inaccurate as they were vicious, left Switzerland's image in tatters and created a void of national identity that has yet to be filled.

"The existential question is: What is Switzerland for? What should it stand for? What is it good at? These questions are not being answered," Daniel Vasella, chief executive of giant life sciences company Novartis, told a recent panel discussion.

This hard scrutiny is making many Swiss wonder why they are getting most of the attention for an era in which few countries covered themselves with glory. They leave the soul-searching to intellectuals and complain about foreign "blackmail".

Even the United States sent back ships with Jewish refugees to certain death in the Holocaust, they say, also recalling how US officials interred innocent Japanese-Americans during World War Two.

One reader, tongue in cheek, wrote to a newspaper wondering how long it would be before it emerged that a Swiss – not a German – submarine sank the Lusitania ocean liner in 1915.

Koller summarized the popular mood when he told parliament that Switzerland had to examine and weigh its own history.

"Even if the final reasons and factors why Switzerland was not attacked during World War II remain a secret, today we do not have to feel ashamed that we escaped the war," he said.

Critics ignore Switzerland's humanitarian traditions, the 300,000 foreigners it took in during wartime, the good offices it provided to help settle conflicts, he noted.

But he said it was up to historians and the public to decide if all Swiss had lived up to the high moral demands in the dark days of the war, when Switzerland turned back thousands of Jewish refugees as the Holocaust raged and its central bank bought tons of gold from Nazi Germany that it knew was looted.

The historical review launched by Bern is continuing, but the Swiss now seem increasingly inclined to close ranks and reject criticism amid demands for financial compensation from the World Jewish Congress and Holocaust victims who are suing big banks.

In the past, the Swiss have turned to their 700-year history and sumptuous Alpine nature as unifying themes for citizens who shared neither a national language nor a national culture.

These subjects united a country that arose in its modern form 150 years ago from a civil war pitting progressives – eager for a centralized, federal state – against traditionalists who saw the agrarian cantons as their home.

Francophones in the west, majority German-speakers in the north and east, Italian-speakers in the south and the small group of ethnic Romansch in mountain valleys still often have little in common other than their mutual desire to be Swiss.

They see themselves as upright, honest and unobtrusive people who have become wealthy by dint of hard work and geography that put them astride European trading routes.

The Swiss tend to show a conservative streak when asked in frequent referenda to approve initiatives in foreign and domestic policy.

They voted in 1992 against strengthening ties with the rest of the continent in the European Economic Area, a vote that exposed the split between pro-Europe francophones and more isolationist German speakers.

They have voted against sending peacekeeping troops abroad, and rejected joining the United Nations. They maintain a 400,000-man militia army and strict neutrality at a time when the end of the Cold War has many searching for reasons why.

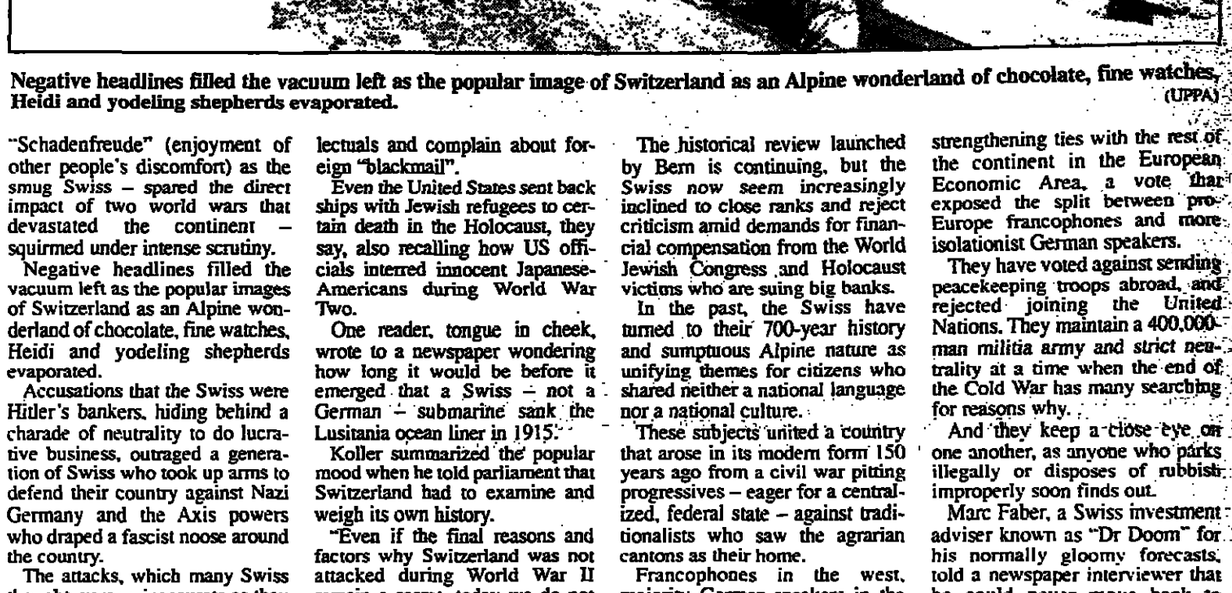
And they keep a close eye on one another, as anyone who parks illegally or disposes of rubbish improperly soon finds out.

Marc Faber, a Swiss investment adviser known as "Dr Doom" for his normally gloomy forecasts, told a newspaper interviewer that he could never move back to Switzerland from his home in Asia.

"I like Switzerland as a country. But the biggest Swiss malaises are envy and jealousy. There is no society in the entire world that is as envious and jealous," he said.

The crisis of confidence has placed a huge burden on the government, a seven-member collective executive that for decades has made quiet compromise, not bold leadership, its watchword.

"The role and the shape of the federal government have not been reformed in 150 years. They are exactly the same as they were then," Studer said. (Reuters)



Negative headlines filled the vacuum left as the popular image of Switzerland as an Alpine wonderland of chocolate, fine watches, Heidi and yodeling shepherds evaporated. (UPPA)

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Kosovo conflict escalates as sides exchange fire

By DOUGLAS HAMILTON

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) – Reports of Serbian progress in recouping control of the Pristina-Pec road emerged amid a potentially explosive escalation of the conflict when Albanian and Yugoslav federal army border guards exchanged fire.

Albanian rebels fighting for Kosovo's independence from Serbia have funnelled weapons and fighters into Kosovo from lawless northern Albania, stoking border tensions as Serbian forces have stepped up efforts to stop the influx.

Meanwhile, Serbian security forces have captured a key stronghold of ethnic Albanian gunmen which had blocked a major road across the province of Kosovo, state media reported yesterday.

Serbian state television aired what it described as footage of ex-Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) positions in Lapusnik, "a notorious terrorist base" which it said security forces wrested back on Sunday.

"The decisive action by the police, which came under fierce fire from mortars, portable rocket launchers, heavy machine guns and automatic weapons, managed to rout the...terrorist gangs in this terrorist stronghold," it said.

The footage showed trenches and bunkers, ammunition, communication equipment, a heavy machine gun, rebel uniforms, food stores and a makeshift surgery.

It was not immediately possible to verify events for lack of foreign access to the area, some 25 km west of the regional capital Pristina.

But if true, Lapusnik's capture would underline an apparent shift in the tide of fighting, which saw the KLA seize up to half of Kosovo since February, only to get knocked backwards by an army and security police counter-offensive in recent days.

The KLA's momentum started to falter when it was beaten back by superior Serbian firepower in an attempt to take its first major town, Orahovac, a week ago.

And a major Yugoslav army and police campaign appeared to get under way on Friday in central Kosovo with the aim of reopening a main east-west artery cut for months by the KLA.

Both Albania's Interior Ministry and the Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug reported shooting across the border in the same area early on Sunday morning but predictably differed on who was to blame.

The Tirana Interior Ministry said "Serb soldiers opened fire towards the police building at the border checkpoint in Morini, Kukes district" and tried to shoot their way through but were stymied by return fire.

Tanjug said Yugoslav Army border guards in the Vrbnica area, which borders Kukes, came under machine-gun fire after KLA fighters nearby tried to slip back into Albania.

"After the border guards urged them to halt, they opened fire and the border guards countered and prevented the terrorists from crossing the border," Tanjug said, quoting the Third Army Command press service.

Such a clash would evoke the nightmare scenario of NATO in the region. They believe northern Albania border zones are being used freely by the KLA to muster and train fighters and infiltrate armed units into Kosovo, creating the risk of internationalising the conflict.

Albania's ATA news agency said that shots continued "for about 15 minutes towards the customs building in Morini and towards the village of Rexhe and near the village of Shalqi".

Women and children were evacuated to the village of Bardhoc.

A Serbian media report earlier on Sunday said 20 KLA members had surrendered to police near Junik, a KLA-controlled village in the foothills of the border zone.

The report said many KLA fighters had fled, but it added that there had been no fighting in that area.

Yugoslav army artillery thumped guerrilla targets in central Kosovo on Sunday and police overran villages on the third day of the offensive, while terrified ethnic Albanian families fled from settlements in the way of the advance.

Blair promotes allies in cabinet reshuffle

By GERRARD RAVEN

LONDON (Reuters) – British Prime Minister Tony Blair fired four ministers yesterday and promoted loyalists to key positions in the first reshuffle of his cabinet after 15 months in office.

The moves were more extensive than expected and enabled Blair for the first time to stamp his mark on a cabinet carried over from opposition, the make-up of which, under Labor Party rules, he had had to accept when he came to power.

The most eye-catching appointment was that of Peter Mandelson, the architect of Labor's election victory, to the post of trade and industry secretary.

Mandelson had long sought a departmental job of his own, partly to shed the reputation as a shadowy media manipulator that has earned him the nickname "Prince of Darkness" and made him unpopular among rank-and-file Labor members of parliament.

He had been tipped for the role of cabinet troubleshooter, but this went to former agriculture minister Jack Cunningham, 58, a safe pair of hands who has served under six Labor leaders.

As cabinet office minister, Cunningham will have the job of harrying ministers across departmental boundaries to make sure they implement Blair's agenda.

The other key promotion was that of Alistair Darling, a Blair loyalist who won plaudits for overseeing a recent comprehensive review of government spending in his job as chief secretary to the Treasury.

Darling gets what could be an even tougher job – overhauling Britain's sprawling and expensive social security system.

Political commentators said Darling's appointment reflected Blair's deep disappointment that outgoing Social Security Secretary Harriet Harman – who was sacked despite her loyalty to Blair – had failed to get to grips with welfare reform.

Harman's deputy, free-thinking Frank Field, announced he was resigning from the government, giving Darling a free hand.

Blair sacked three other ministers: Transport Minister Gavin Strang, Public Services Minister David Clark and the leader of the House of Lords, Ivor Richard.

Richard was replaced by Baroness Margaret Jay, daughter of former Labor Prime Minister James Callaghan. As well as steering through sweeping reforms of the unelected upper house, Jay will take over Harman's responsibilities as minister for women.

Blair's team has been unchanged since Labor's landslide general election win in May last year, ending 18 years in the political wilderness.

Labor still enjoys a huge lead in opinion polls and Blair was under no political pressure to shake up his ministerial team.

But the reshuffle was an opportunity for Blair to reinforce his authority. Under party rules, Blair was obliged to choose his first government from the "shadow cabinet" elected by Labor members of parliament while they were in opposition.

As expected, the big players in the cabinet all kept their jobs — Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, Home Secretary Jack Straw, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and Education Secretary David Blunkett.

Some commentators said the reshuffle could be interpreted as a blow to Brown, the finance minister, in what is portrayed in the press as his constant quest to wrest power and influence from Blair.

Not only must he countenance Mandelson in an important economic job, but Brown's new deputy will be Stephen Byers, another close Blair ally who was promoted from the job of junior education minister.



China floods

Soldiers stationed in the Hunan and Hubei provinces carry sandbags to strengthen the banks of the Jingiang River in south China's Hubei province on Sunday. Hubei is among the areas hit hardest by China's worst flooding in 44 years, which has left at least 1,000 dead. (AP)

Three nuns shot dead in Yemen

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) – Three nuns who worked with the late Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity were shot to death yesterday as they left their clinic in the Red Sea city of Hodeida, a Yemenite security official said.

The official said one of the Roman Catholic nuns was from the Philippines and two were Indian.

They were killed by gunmen carrying automatic rifles, he said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

Authorities have arrested one person believed to have been involved in the attack, the official said. He did not identify the suspect in any way.

The official said Yemenite President Ali Abdullah Saleh promised to direct the investigation into the incident.

The Missionaries of Charity, based in Calcutta, have operated medical clinics in Yemen since 1970 and never have been attacked before, Yemenite officials said.

The incident is not believed related to the ongoing battles between Yemenite tribesmen and the government over price hikes put in place under an economic reform program supervised by the International Monetary Fund. Since the price increases went into effect on June 19, tribesmen have blown up oil pipelines, ambushed ministers' motorcades and opened fire on government buildings.

US to keep pressure on Japan

ANALYSIS

By LINDA SIEG

TOKYO (Reuters) – The US looks set to give Japan's next cabinet the benefit of the doubt as to its commitment to fixing the nation's economic ills, but will not ease its intense pressure for quick and convincing action.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has already given Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi – expected to be formally installed as prime minister later this week – a friendly but firm message to take quick steps to restore Japan to economic health and help the rest of Asia out of its financial crisis.

In reply, Obuchi promised to act promptly and reiterated his campaign pledges of a six trillion yen ($42.2 billion) tax cut and an extra budget worth 10 trillion yen, US officials said in Manila, where the two met at an annual session of ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations.

Washington, along with financial markets, is now watching to see who Obuchi, the winner of last Friday's three-way race for the presidency of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), selects to fill key cabinet posts later this week.

Obuchi is expected to be voted in on Thursday as successor to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is stepping down over the party's dismal showing in a July 12 Upper House election.

Japanese media said yesterday that Obuchi might ask former prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who played a high-profile role in crafting recent banking-sector policies, to fill the finance minister hot seat.

But an LDP source told Reuters that Miyazawa, 78, was unlikely to accept and that Obuchi really wanted to tap former LDP secretary-general Koichi Kato for the post.

Miyazawa's close ties to key US economic figures such as Federal Reserve Bank Chairman Alan Greenspan could be a plus in dealing with a Washington irritated by years of Japanese policy delay and dithering.

Miyazawa, who has held the finance post before, speaks English and his daughter is married to Christopher La Fleur, the charge d'affaires at the US Embassy in Tokyo.

Kato, meanwhile, might not be the favorite choice of US officials, given doubts about his commitment to drastic banking sector reform and worries he might oppose a very loose fiscal policy because of concern about Japan's big budget deficit.

Conservative veteran Seiroku Kajiyama, who placed second in the race for LDP chief, is still the darling of financial markets for his "get tough" stance towards Japan's bad loan-laden banks. Talk that he would not get the finance post helped send Tokyo share prices into a nose-dive yesterday.

Actions, however, will weigh far more heavily with Washington than personnel line-ups and promises.

"I think we tend to over-estimate the importance of a dynamic finance minister," the diplomatic analyst said.

The US at present appears willing to give Obuchi a bit of breathing space to see if his low-key, party-insider approach can succeed in implementing vital economic policies where Hashimoto's flashier efforts failed, analysts said.

"You have to balance [the desirability] of someone who has party support but no reputation for bold action with [that of] someone who is not afraid to break rice bowls but doesn't have party support," said one foreign economic expert.

"We've just had the latter, maybe it's time for the former."

Obuchi will have to deploy all his consensus-building skills to finalize LDP proposals on the banking sector and tax cuts, and to guide needed legislation through parliament, which is expected to reopen an extraordinary session on July 30.

Success will require complex deals, both with competing LDP blocs and with opposition parties, whose strong showing in the election triggered the LDP leadership contest.

Communists vow to block US-Russia naval moves

VLADIVOSTOK (Reuters) – Communist hard-liners vowed yesterday to block joint naval exercises with the US outside Russia's easternmost port of Vladivostok planned for next week.

The local branch of the Communist-led National Patriotic Forces Union (NPSR) said plans to land US marines near Russia's key Pacific naval base were humiliating to national pride and threatened the country's security.

As a part of joint maneuvers held every two years since 1994, US marines were scheduled to land in Ussury Bay on the fringes of Vladivostok on August 6. A spokesman for the Pacific Fleet said no shooting exercises were planned.

"This action cannot be considered other than a provocation and a blow at Russia's national pride," the NPSR spokesman Alexander Reznichenko said.

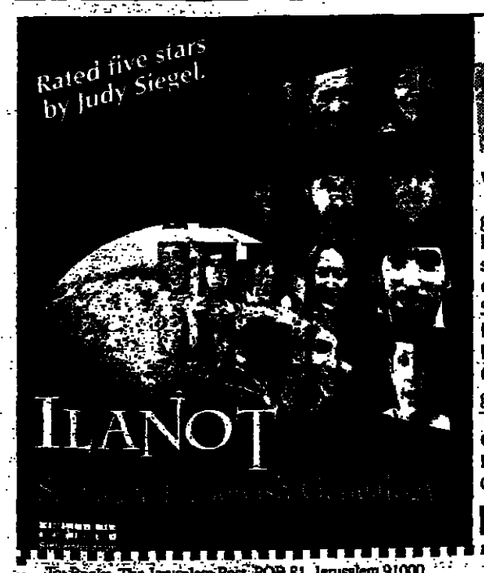
"The NPSR believes reactionary circles in the United States and NATO are working out plans to establish military control over Russia and its people."

Russian Communists blame President Boris Yeltsin's government for developing cooperation with NATO, which they believe is hostile to Russia.

Reznichenko said protesters will picket the US Consulate and the headquarters of the Pacific Fleet in Vladivostok tomorrow and Thursday calling for the exercises to be scrapped.

"If this does not work, about 500 supporters of the NPSR will form a human chain on August 6 between Ketovaya and Desantnaya bays to prevent the Americans from landing," he said.

He added that small boats were expected to float in the bays to block US ships from nearing the coast.



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Bombay lunch-box brigade brings workers meals

By DEXTER FILKINS

BOMBAY – Lunch hour descends on this humid commercial city, and the archaic hustle begins.

A thousand men pour in from the old British train stations, all shouldering the same shiny cargo and all wearing the same frantic stare.

They glance at their watches, mount their bikes and disperse into the traffic and heat.

Minutes later, in an air-conditioned office, Rajesh Sori takes his delivery: a six-course lunch, spirited from the suburbs so carefully that his favorite Indian foods, dal and chapati, still glow with the warmth of home.

"I only eat home-cooked food," says Sori, 34, sighing. "Food cooked by my wife." The man who has made this possible – the man who met Sori's wife at her door at exactly 8:45 a.m., cradled the lunch through the chaos of the Bombay trains and handed it off to another courier, who pedaled it across the city and into the diamond grader's hands at exactly 12:45 p.m. – considers the money he has earned for his efforts: About 12 cents.

"It's hard work," says Vitthal Dhra, 40, a sinewy father of two.

"But I couldn't get this job in the village."

Dhra is known as a "dabbawallah," one of the legion of mostly illiterate, mostly village-born men who scratch out a life by toting hot, home-cooked lunches from Bombay's sprawling suburbs to middle-class office workers downtown for a few rupees a day. The dabbawallahs are one of Bombay's oldest and quirkiest institutions, sustained by a ceaseless stream of cheap labor, one of the world's most extensive commuter train networks and the historical willingness of Indian wives to stay home and cook.

Today, as this urban area of 15 million crashes into the modern age, the dabbawallahs are feeling left behind. More women work outside the home and don't have time to cook. Fast-food joints are popping up between the office buildings. As businesses toughen themselves for Western competition, fewer employees have the time to dig into multi-course lunches.

Many of Bombay's dabbawallahs say their services are needed less and less, no matter how fast they pedal.

And still the prospective "wallahs" arrive, pouring out of India's impoverished villages into a labor pool so large that dabbawallahs must always fend off new competitors scouring their neighborhoods for clients.

At Bay Bites, a sandwich stand squeezed between Bombay's modern office buildings and the Arabian Sea, some doubt whether the dabbawallahs will last into the next century.

"My father ate a hot lunch cooked at home every day for 40 years," accountant Nani Daruwala says between bites of a mutton burger. "Times have changed. Lifestyles have changed. My wife works. We don't have time."

The term dabbawallah derives from the Hindi words "dabba," for the bucket-sized metal containers, or tiffins, that most of them use, and "wallah," which means, roughly, "guy." India's cities are full of wallahs of every sort, performing unpleasant tasks or selling meager items for pathetic salaries.

"Dhobiwallahs" do laundry by hand, usually for about 5 cents per piece. "Bidiwallahs" sell cigarettes and betel, the leaves many Indians like to chew as a stimulant. "Dodhwallahs" deliver milk.

The dabbawallahs, who number between 1,000 and 5,000, are exclusive to Bombay, India's commercial center. They grew up around the city's extensive commuter train network, begun by the British in the 19th century, which ferries 5.5 million people a day to and from their jobs.

The collection and distribution of the tiffins each day is a miracle of timing and organization performed by a work force that cannot read or write.



Baban Iyerkar, 35, says he'll do this job as long as his body will let him – and as long as there are people who want their lunches delivered hot. (Los Angeles Times)

"I've been having my lunch brought from home for 13 years, and I think they've failed to bring it on time maybe three times," says Dominic D'Souza, a clerk in a Bombay textile firm.

THE sky is still pink over Bombay when Baban Iyerkar checks the air in his tires before starting on his way. Iyerkar lives in a tin hut with eight other people in an encampment called Kutir Sangam, which nudges one of Bombay's nicer neighborhoods. Kutir Sangam smells of filth and closeness, its 3,000 settlers working and living in pools of muddy water that remain for days after the rains.

Iyerkar, 35, in white flapping pajamas and Nehru cap, pedals his bulky, black bicycle for 25 minutes before coming to his first pickup.

It is 7:45 a.m. – he is right on time. Pallu Madhavlal comes to the door, tiffin in hand.

Iyerkar hooks the tiffin onto his bike and begins pedaling to his next stop 10 minutes away. There he meets Jyoti Desai, who hands him a tiffin full of the Indian culinary pillars: rice, cabbage, chapati and dal. She has prepared the feast for her daughter, Vibha, a bank clerk.

And so Iyerkar continues, pedaling and collecting, for the next three hours, riding nearly 10 miles, gathering 30 tiffins in all, until he reaches the Santa Cruz station just in time to make the 10:34 a.m. train to downtown.

In the minutes before the train comes, Iyerkar parks his bike and puts his 30-pound load onto a wooden pallet. The train arrives, stopping for 10 seconds, long enough for Iyerkar to shove himself and his cargo past the crush of riders and into a car.

The 40-minute ride into Churchgate Station provides Iyerkar one of his few respites from a day of nearly ceaseless work. Yet, like many dabbawallahs interviewed for this story, he complains only when prodded.

Like other dabbawallahs, he is part of a team – his has 22 members – that has divided up most of the suburbs of Bombay. On the train ride, dabbawallahs are leaping on and off at every stop.

The crucial – and most esoteric – part of his day comes when he arrives, at 11:15 a.m., at Churchgate Station in downtown Bombay. Each morning, and almost at once, hundreds of dabbawallahs converge at the city's 96 train stations and split up into their teams.

Just as Iyerkar collects his tiffins in a certain suburb, so he is assigned to deliver tiffins to a specific section of downtown Bombay.

When the teams converge, they swap their tiffins according to the color codes atop each lunch box.

Once understood, the symbols tell the wallahs everything they need to know: where the tiffin should be picked up, whether and to whom it should be handed off and where it should be delivered.

Loaded with his final batch of tiffins, Iyerkar mounts his second bicycle, stored at Churchgate, and pedals into the steaming Bombay traffic. By 12:30 p.m., he has delivered most of his lunches, some in insulated tiffins to ensure that they are warm on delivery.

For his efforts, he receives the equivalent of about $3.75 a month per customer. With 30 paying customers, that means he is bringing home just over $28.50 a week. That's the limit, Iyerkar says: Any more customers and he wouldn't be able to deliver on time.

At 1:30, Iyerkar is up again, collecting his tiffins, hooking them to his bike to begin the routine in reverse. He will cycle back to the train, ride it to Santa Cruz, pedal the 10-mile loop, dropping off each tiffin at the house of its owner. He will finish, he hopes, by 6 p.m.

Lifting himself onto his bike, Iyerkar says he'll do this job as long his body will let him – and as long as there are people who want their lunches delivered hot.

"When I'm too old, I'll go back to my village and work the fields." (Los Angeles Times)

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Beethoven's joie de vivre

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Maria Joao Pires is one of the finest pianists of our generation. This is evident in every one of her fortunately frequent performances with the IPO.

Her rendition of Beethoven's Second Piano Concerto was pure magic. Pires breathed new life into the concerto by playing it in her own elegant and vibrant style. She does not play the music, she floats with it, using it to sculpture engulfing images in midair and enhance our understanding and enjoyment.

IPO BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL
Mann Auditorium
Tel Aviv
July 19

The concerto's second movement was most memorable in a delightful performance full of joie de vivre.

The concerto was sandwiched between two Beethoven symphonies, each played with electrifying sincerity by Zubin Mehta and the IPO. Playing a different Beethoven program nightly in this end-of-season mini-festival, which encompasses the composer's nine symphonies, five piano concerti and the violin concerto, is something only Mehta can pull off in such an invigorating manner.

More than 25 years ago Mehta played Beethoven's Seventh Symphony with the IPO and recorded it for Decca. It was a performance full of energetic drive and youthful determination. Now the conductor is more mature, and gave a more refined and personal reading of the score in which the immediate transition from the first to the second movement was most intriguing. The Second Symphony was just as exciting, and showcased a much younger Beethoven in a more classic mode. Altogether the combination of Mehta, Pires and the IPO playing Beethoven is a winning one, and this festival promises to be one of the highlights of the season. – *Michael Ajzenstadt*

IT IS in music from the 19th century onward that pianist Avner Hanani, 24, seems to feel most at home. Cesar Franck's Prelude, Fugue and Variation was delivered with a delightfully light and soft touch, and the chordal progressions blossomed in all their sumptuous sonorousness.

Barber's Sonata (1949) brimmed with refreshing, sometimes explosive, energies and appropriate force. Filigree passages sparkled with enjoyable clarity and subtlety. The more hidden energies of

AVNER HANANI
Works by Scarlatti, Mozart, Cesar Franck, Barber
Brigham Young University
Jerusalem Center
July 19

Scarlatti's Sonatas did not surface very clearly, remaining on a merely mechanic level. In Mozart's Sonata in A major, the Andante lacked the qualifying grazioso of its caption, and the Menuetto was more accurate than elegant. – *Ury Eppstein*

THE IPO played Mahler's Third Symphony earlier this season, under the baton of Giuseppe Sinopoli, in a most intriguing and perplexing performance that was much more romantic than usual and very dramatic in its overall view of this gigantic opus. Now, under the baton of music director Zubin Mehta, the IPO played the same work in a totally different way.

Mehta has been conducting Mahler with the IPO for many years. It is a composer he breathes, and one the orchestra likes to play. Yet this time around it was Mahler like we never heard him before.

The opening movement ran the gamut of emotions and expres-

ZUBIN MEHTA CONDUCTS MAHLER
Mann Auditorium Tel Aviv
July 21

sions, from a very introverted opening to an almost demonic outburst at its conclusion.

Then there were a few moments later on in which Mehta suddenly let loose the orchestra, and the beguiling IPO sound enfolded and embraced one and all in its glory and finesse. It was as if Mehta, who was amazingly conducting without a score, was getting all the emotional power of this opus while simultaneously avoiding sentimentality and presenting a song of praise not only to nature – as the composer suggests regarding this opus – but to human nature and humanity at large.

This was a performance that began more like a song of mourning and despair, yet ended in a most sublime way. Although there were far too many sour moments in the orchestra brass, this was one of the best-ever performances in recent years by the IPO and Mehta.

– *Michael Ajzenstadt*

Jerusalem: The place for roots reggae

By JOSH BINDER

Roots Afrika has a prophecy: "Peace, love and unity will ultimately prevail to bring all of mankind together as one."

This might seem a bold statement for band founder Adrian Djoman, the Ivory Coast-born bassist who only seven years ago was hawking self-recorded tapes and performing songs on the crowded streets of Jerusalem. But such optimism is typical of his seven-member band.

Jamaican-born Derick Rose is the band's inspiration and instrumental focus. At 45, the rhythm guitarist and vocalist brings with him a vast amount of experience. Four years ago, Rose moved to Israel and settled in an isolated tent in the hills outside of Jerusalem. During that year, he wrote most of the lyrics and music on the band's current album *Rise Oh Israel*.

According to Rose, reggae music stands for peace, truth and justice. "Reggae is simple music that can touch a person's soul and influence the way he acts in this world." Rose quotes Bob Marley's lyrics on injustice – "Until the color of a man's skin is of no more significance than the color of his eyes, me say war" – and, making a reference to the Bible, says, "We come from one tree, we should be as one."

As for the music, Roots Afrika believes that most reggae performed today is "watered down" – lacking both spirituality and purpose. By contrast, Djoman says, his band "plays live reggae straight from the earth, with meaning."

The group, like virtually all reggae acts, is inspired by Bob Marley and covers a number of his songs. Outside of that, Ross says, "I listen to my heart," for inspiration.

His heart tells him that racism and injustice are diseases which are infecting society, and his lyrics encourage hope for a better tomorrow. Although Rose doesn't consider himself a religious man, he recognizes God as "an infinite power beyond human understanding."

Rose is supported by a talented cast of cross-cultural musicians. Lead vocalist Emanuel Yerday is of Ethiopian descent and was born in Israel. Trumpeter Ayal Yehiely, lead guitarist Assaf Ayalon, drummer Yossi Levi and keyboardist Shai Prosh are all sabras.

Having played throughout the country, drummer Levi says the band has a marked preference for Jerusalem gigs. "This city has a lot of character, and so do the people. Those living in Jerusalem are more spiritual and a bit more relaxed."

As resident Israelis, it's not surprising that Roots Afrika often sings in Hebrew. Indeed, Djoman promises that the band's next disc will be entirely in Hebrew.

Roots Afrika plays at Jerusalem's Glasnost pub every Tuesday night.



Roots Afrika often sings in Hebrew and promises that its next disc will be entirely in this language.

Bragg brings Guthrie alive

In Tune



By David Brinn

Like a rare crackling 78-rpm record from a bygone era, *Mermaid Avenue* is full of wonder, discovery and passion.

MERMAID AVENUE
Billy Bragg & Wilco
(Hed Artzi)

Built upon a patchwork of lyrics from one of American music's legends and music from two of his scattered seeds, the resultant songs are a seamless blend that effortlessly traverses the 50-year gap between the time when the song was begun and when it was finally finished and recorded.

A dust-bowl troubadour and card-carrying unionist, Woody Guthrie and his plaintive folk songs and fervent protest anthems touched generations of artists, from Bob Dylan to Bruce Springsteen to the perpetrators of *Mermaid Avenue*, Billy Bragg and Wilco.

The concept for the disc was simple, but full of possible pitfalls. Guthrie's daughter, Nora, was curator for hundreds of poems and lyrics her father had written but never set to music. Three years ago, she entrusted them to British folk iconoclast Bragg, who then enlisted the help of American ragged country-rockers Wilco.



Billy Bragg studies Woody Guthrie's original lyrics.

Together, they could have tried to imitate Guthrie's stark sound or tried to doll up the lyrics with 1990s gloss. Instead, they were confident enough to rely on their own formidable interpretive talents, already generously displayed on Bragg's long-ranging solo career and Wilco's masterful 1996 opus *Being There*.

Mermaid Avenue, named after the Brooklyn street where Guthrie lived when he wrote most of the lyrics, is a true collaboration between three complementary artists.

Bragg and the Wilco songwriting team of Jeff Tweedy and Jay Bennett treat Guthrie's lyrics with reverence, but aren't afraid to play around with them. Acoustic folk songs stand proudly next to barroom honky-tonks, which contrast with the loping, creaky amalgam of folk, rock and country on the rest of the disc.

Guthrie's lyrics are astounding in their scope and predate much of what later came to be called rock 'n' roll. The inspiring Joe Hill unionizing songs are only one facet of his interests.

Bragg and Wilco tackle a few introspective pieces that Bragg cleverly points out in the liner notes make Guthrie a prime candidate as the first in a long line of singer-songwriters. And on the nonsensical "Hoodoo Voodoo," Guthrie made it safe for Little Richard to think about "Be Bop a Lu La."

Bragg and Wilco caress the lyrics with some of the prettiest, rockingest and timeless melodies of their careers. Carefully thought-out touches like a pedal steel here, or a harmony vocal there, are used like small strokes on a stark landscape, embellishing the intentional overall rawness of the material.

It sounds like a family album come to life. Natalie Merchant helps out with harmonies on "Way Over Yonder in the Minor Key," a stunning duet with Bragg.

Bragg and Tweedy trade off lines, songwriting credits and instruments, much in the way The Band and Bob Dylan did while recording in a basement in 1967, which resulted in *The Basement Tapes*.

There are no high points; it's all a high point. But it really comes together on the final track, "The Unwelcome Guest."

One of Guthrie's most affecting narratives on the theme of workingman versus the bossman is given a simple country ballad treatment by the band. On the third verse, Tweedy's high harmonies join Bragg's vocals and gradually on successive verses, increase in conviction as they sing to the audience, each other and to Guthrie.

A circle is formed – the angry leftist Brit and the scruffy cowboy punk discovering they're joined across 50 years by the original troubadour's words that still ring true.

'The gefilte Garcia'

By CHRIS OLERT

Yossi Piamenta is a matchmaker with an electric guitar, marrying Woodstock to the Western Wall.

Don't call him the "Hassidic Hendrix," as the *Village Voice* once did. As Piamenta recently told adoring fans at the nightclub Tramps, "It is a very great honor, a big honor" to be compared to Jimi Hendrix. "But I would really rather be called Yossi Piamenta."

There's something about the Brooklyn rocker that encourages nicknames.

Sound engineer Rob Childs says simply, "The rabbi rocks. We call him the 'gefilte Garcia.' I wish I had somebody like him when I was in church."

Piamenta – an Israeli discovered in Tel Aviv by jazz great Stan Getz – does resemble the Grateful Dead's late guitarist Jerry Garcia.

He's an Orthodox Jew, but not actually a rabbi. And he's Sephardi, not Hassidic. For the 22 years he's been in New York, Piamenta's mainly been a headliner at Jewish weddings. Now, at 46, he's making the crossover from what some music writers have called Hassidic rock to a hard-driving rock 'n roll that could win him new listeners.

"His taste in music is an original sound," says twenty-something fan Elliot Katz of Lawrence, N.Y., who had caught Piamenta at weddings and was one of about 300 people in the Tramps audience. "This is Jewish music with a different sound, like classic rock."

"Being original is a goal," agrees Piamenta, who's got a graying Brillo-pad orgy of a beard, and wire-rimmed glasses. He wears a multi-colored yarmulke and at his waist hang the traditional fringes worn by Orthodox men.

Expanding his audience beyond Orthodox Jews is another goal for the man recently crowned "the greatest ultra-Orthodox rock guitarist in the world" by the *Jewish Forward*. A father of six, Piamenta not only rocks but plays klezmer, blues, jazz and fusion.

He grew up in a secular home and learned guitar from the radio. Even today he doesn't read music.

"I grew up on Jimi Hendrix. I grew up on Oriental music. I grew up on Arabic music from the Beduin village," says Piamenta in his living room. "Hendrix is for me the classiest guitar player in this century. ... If you were not influenced by him, then you're influenced by people who were influenced by him."

Other influences? Piamenta tosses in Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, Weather Report and B.B. King.

His career leaped beyond his homeland when Getz visited Israel in 1976 and Piamenta managed to woo him into his home. Since Getz had only one free night, he wasn't eager to meet strangers. But Piamenta called his hotel and promised the saxophonist the party of his life. So Getz went. Yossi played his guitar, brother Avi his flute.

"After six or seven of my own tunes, Stan Getz asked me to record with him," says Piamenta, raising his arms and almost lifting his round frame from the black leather couch. "I told him that would be the peak and goal of my dreams."

On Piamenta's 25th birthday, in 1976, he arrived in New York as a guest of Getz. Together they cut an album, although it was never released because of technical and artistic problems.

"My first half year in America was from the top of the American dream," Piamenta says, his eyes lighting like sparklers. "To an anonymous poor musician in Israel, this was like in the fairy tales."

Piamenta returned to Israel in 1977 on tour with Getz. The next year, he came back to New York, toured with Getz and at the end of the tour Piamenta turned to Orthodoxy.

The decadence of life as a road musician pushed him toward a religious life, he says. In music, too. "I started to be a Hassidic musician," he says, and made himself the Guy Lombardo of Jewish weddings.

He recorded five albums of Jewish tunes, some 500 years old. But always, the rock was rolling around Piamenta's soul.

"The music that gets me closer to God is the best music. If there's music that calls for hate, that's not the music for God," Piamenta says. "Music that melts the heart is good music."

Piamenta's heart-melting music – not licks but full-jawed chomps that he coaxes from his Fender Stratocaster – hit mainstream New York in 1994 in concerts at the Manhattan clubs Wetlands and the *Knitting Factory*.

That, says Piamenta, "put me on the map of secular New York."

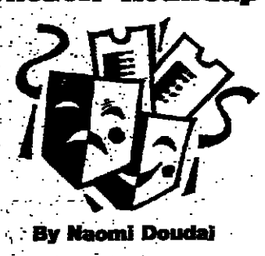
New York Times critic Jon Pareles wrote of Piamenta's second pop concert, "His notes took on bluesy bends ... He added fuzz-tone and sustain, playing broad scales amid syncopation like Carlos Santana."

This year, Piamenta has hired a publicist, and no longer has to paste posters on light poles with his sons in tow to advertise his concerts.

Now he's working on a US tour for 1999 and a world tour to follow. (AP)

Family failings at the Khan

Theater Roundup



By Naomi Doudai

This precious 90-minute piece with its subtle humor marks the accomplished style that has come to mark many of the Khan's latest productions.

CONVERSATIONS AFTER A FUNERAL
By Yasmina Reza
Khan Theater, Jerusalem

Yasmina Reza, the prize-winning French playwright whose *Art* was such a hit at Beit Lessin, this time shows up in Jerusalem with another very sophisticated comedy, *Conversations*.

Gripping in its ironic indulgence of human frailty and family failings, the play's catalyst is the death of a father. Revolving around the hitherto hidden passions and problems of six lonely and estranged members of one family, the entire dynamic is in the subtle removal of their mutually excluding masks.

In a drama almost devoid of physical action, Ronni Ninio fully exploits the furious psychological currents and crises. His directing has a flair that brings out the full French flavour of the highly spirited piece written with Gallic restraint and charm.

Actress Katya Zimbrice, in the central role of elder sister, sets the tone with a crafted, highly *sympathique* performance. Gilli Ben-Ozilio as lover of both brothers cuts a soulful if controversial figure and Aliza Rozen is entirely endearing as the elegant dotty outsider, Julienne.

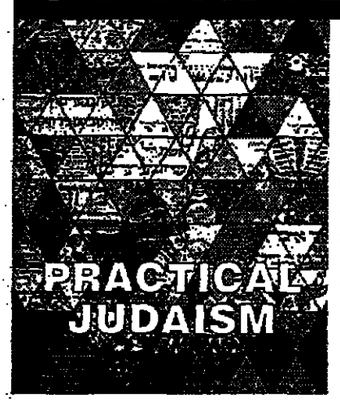
The male actors project characters that are equally colorful and convincing. Motti Katz is the incandescent Alex; Yehoyachim Friedlander is the Chekhovian elder brother Nathan; and Avinoam Mor-Haim is the benign, smooth-tongued Pierre.

Altogether this is an ensemble whose honed acting skills do justice to an intelligent and stimulating production.



Playwright Yasmina Reza

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Religion and unity

It is not what was said, but who said it. Education Minister Yitzhak Levy stunned the audience at Kibbutz Kfar Blum recently by speaking out against religious legislation. To most, the National Religious Party's new leader symbolized its steady movement rightward – *both on the peace process and in terms of influence* by outside rabbis, such as Levy's own mentor, Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu. The question is whether Levy's speech means that the NRP will begin to play an active role in reshaping the relationship between religion and state, or whether the aim will be to salvage as much of the status quo as possible.

According to Levy, "The subject of Shabbat is decided already... Stores and malls are open, and only the matter of public transportation remains.

"My heart aches when [bread] is sold on Pessah, but it must not be legislated [against]. Whoever wants to eat pork – let him eat. There is no place here for the establishment's involvement." As revolutionary as this statement is, Levy expressed an even more far-reaching sentiment on a follow-up interview with *Yediot Aharonot*: "We admit that religious legislation is an affront to religion in the eyes of the secular, and it is about time to develop a different way." In other words, it is not just a matter of recognizing that religious legislation has eroded over time, but that it has been counterproductive toward its own cause: promoting religion.

Even secular rights activists, such as Ornan Yekutieli of Am Hofshi, did not hide their enthusiasm for Levy's remarks, saying that the minister could be the bridge between secular and haredi worlds and the catalyst to finding a way to live together. But Levy still tries to draw a line between personal behavior and matters of personal status – such as marriage, divorce and conversion. Here he seems unwilling to follow the *full implications of his own statements*. The personal-status issues, Levy argues, must be regulated by the religious establishment, because they concern not just individuals but "future generations." The question remains whether, even in this area, the existing system has not done more to undermine religion in society than to preserve it.

In 1975, for example, over 28,000 Jews were married by the Rabbinate. Twenty years later, the Jewish population had grown by 50 percent, while the number of marriages through the Rabbinate actually dropped to under 27,000. There is no way around these figures: The religious establishment has failed the institution of marriage in Israel. The fact that Israelis are getting married later in life may account for some of the gap, but mainly it is the thousands who choose a civil marriage abroad, or not getting married at all, over going through the Rabbinate.

Even if the Rabbinate reacted to Israelis voting *with their feet on the issue of marriage, this* would still not address other serious situations, such as the inability of "mixed" couples to marry in Israel. MK Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'aliya) has introduced a bill to eliminate this problem by allowing civil marriage for such couples, which are particularly prevalent among Russian immigrants. A more sweeping bill, introduced by MKs Dedi Zucker (Meretz), Ran Cohen (Labor), and others, would open civil marriage to everyone and provide for Orthodox, Conservative, or Reform rabbis to perform religious marriages. Though this might be regarded as a radical change from the status quo, it should not be dismissed as hostile to the cause of religion in Israel.

Though Levy is only willing to admit that religious legislation is counterproductive regarding personal observance, such as Shabbat and kashrut, there is strong argument that the same logic applies to marriage and conversion. There is no denying the danger that, through differing approaches towards marriage and conversion, the Jewish people will split into different groups whose members cannot marry each other, or who do not regard one another as Jews. The question is whether this problem can or should be addressed by continuing the existing legislated monopoly of the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate.

The problem of differing Jewish streams not recognizing each other is certainly not a new one – it is discussed in the Talmud in the context of the bitter disputes between the houses of Hillel and Shammai. Though the Talmud reports *different versions of how this conflict was* resolved, one version was that it was not – but each side recognized "intermarriages" with the other for the sake of the unity of the Jewish people. Perhaps the greatest harm caused by the existing mixture of state and religion is that it has sapped the shared sense of destiny that is necessary to forge workable compromises between the major Jewish streams. The other great harm, from a religious perspective, is that the institutionalization of Judaism within the state has been at the expense of its place within Israeli society. This is the harm that Yitzhak Levy should recognize more comprehensively, and should be recognized by the haredi parties as well.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPIKE'S SPLEEN

Sir, – While Spike Lee's filmmaking is maturing, his rhetoric and spleen, as shown in the interview "Spike's gotta have it" (*Time Out*, July 24) are pitifully undeveloped.

We, who understood the horrifying parallel between the 1930s in Germany and the 1950s in America joined the US Civil Rights Movement. We, who put our lives on the line so that American blacks would not continue to suffer the humiliation *German Jews* had been subjected to (pre-Holocaust) are appalled and offended by Lee's continuous whining and anti-Jewish jibes.

Lee's documentary was good – but not good enough. *The Long Journey Home*'s message is sustained by the power of its script and visuals. The indictment of those who actively and tacitly permitted the suffering of the survivors is eloquently presented, without the sturm and drang of Lee's often heavy-handed messages. The better film won. It's as simple as that.

When Spike Lee gets off his buns – heavily padded with capitalist dollars – and marches for the protection of Jewish children in Argentina or black children in Rwanda and Angola, I'll begin to have more respect for him.

Meanwhile, Lee remains a 41 year-old juvenile, delinquent in his debt to blacks and Jews who paved the way for him.

DR. NINA ZELDIS

Tel Aviv.

REAL PEACE

Sir, – Gad Yaacobi ("Peace and the economy," July 15) adds his voice to the near mantra-like chorus of those urging Israel's government to move forward in the peace process for the sake of economic interests.

What is especially troubling about this constant refrain is the implication that the Israeli people need an economic incentive to make peace or the notion that greater foreign investment and increased Israeli exports can somehow provide an antidote to the dangers arising out of a poorly crafted peace agreement.

Israelis of all political stripes fervently pray for the day when mothers and fathers no longer need to spend countless sleepless nights worrying about their sons serving on the borders. All Israelis desperately yearn for an end to the heart-wrenching scenes of parents burying their young sons killed in battle. And there is nobody in Israel who would not gladly welcome a time when normal family life is no longer constantly disrupted by the requirements of annual reserve duty.

Indeed, far from needing an economic motivation for achieving peace, Israelis on the Right of the political spectrum would be as ready as their counterparts on the Left to experience a drop in their economic motivation for achieving peace, Israelis on the right wing of the political spectrum would be as ready as their counterparts on the left wing to experience a drop in their economic standing in return for real peace.

Furthermore, it should be understood that the economic benefits which might result from a peace agreement between Israel were left hostage to constant threats of renewed violence from Arab leaders whenever they found something not to their liking. Witness the warnings from Hosni Mubarak on July 14 about Israel's possible destruction (no less) if the peace process continues to stall.

Real peace, if it can actually be achieved, is a nearly supreme value, infinitely greater than a higher GNP. But the dangers arising out of a peace agreement into which Israel is pushed by outside pressure and threats of violence, which reduces Israel's ability to act independently and increases her vulnerability, can in no way by mitigated by short-term economic gains. Therefore, contrary to Mr. Yaacobi's conclusion, Israel's government would be acting most recklessly if it allowed existential decisions concerning the peace process to be influenced by economic factors or considerations.

DAVID KIRSHENBAUM

Beit Shemesh.

WHAT TO DO?

Sir, - With regard to Ray Lewis's letter "Cable Robbery" (July 24), I agree 100 percent. However, calls, letters and complaints produce no results.

What can we do?

AUDREY GOODMAN

Ramat Hasharon.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On July 28, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported on the education in Palestine in general and on the extensive Jewish school system in particular. A great effort was made to promote cooperation between Jews and Arabs and Arabic was taught in nearly all secondary schools and training colleges.

50 years ago: On July 28, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that as for the past 43 years, Tammuz 20, the anniversary of Herzl's death, was observed as a Nation Day in memory of the man who gave political expression to the vision of a Jewish state. The UN Security Council rejected the Arab proposal to submit the Palestine question to the International Court of Justice.

The Fritzel, successor to the Davidka mortar, Israel's secret weapon, was presented to the world for the first time.

Alexander Zvielli



A party at work

YOSSI BEILIN

Last week extremely discordant tones were heard in the Labor Party during an argument between those willing to grant Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu a parliamentary "safety net," and those who refuse to do so in advance. Party leaders were sharply criticized for not presenting a united front and for revealing the differences of opinion between them.

This dispute, however, is of a particular nature. The ideological frame of reference within the Labor Party is firmer than ever. All members of the Knesset's largest faction believe that implementing the Oslo Accords and reaching agreement on a permanent settlement are the only way to lead Israel to security and normalization.

This unity of purpose is particularly telling in view of the increased danger of missiles and weapons of mass destruction, specifically on the periphery of the Middle East. In contrast to the period in which the party included hawks such as Amos Hadar and Shlomo Hillel as well as doves like Yossi Sarid and Lova Eliav, the Knesset's Labor faction now comprises a group of people who are committed to withdrawal from the Golan Heights as part of a peace agreement with Syria, and to a Palestinian state in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, in a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

The political disagreement is no longer strategic, but tactical: Should we withdrawal unilaterally from Lebanon without prior agreement with Syria? Should a referendum following concessions on the Golan Heights be determined by legislation or is it preferable to allow the government to resolve this issue when the time comes? Would it not be best to inform Netanyahu, in advance, that the peace camp will not join forces with the Right in order to bring down his government if Netanyahu presents the Knesset with a proposal for implementing an interim agreement with the Palestinians?

The 18 Knesset members who requested that the Labor faction hold a meeting to discuss this last question did not sign a petition, nor did they threaten to provide a "safety net" independently.

Political disagreements in Labor are no longer strategic, but tactical

Anyone who considers the request for such a discussion to be a challenge to the party leader is mistaken and misleading. Today no one opposes Ehud Barak's leadership. There is no "Barak camp" versus any other camp, and the long period in which two camps existed in the Labor Party is over.

LABOR is still a party, even in the troubled times of a directly elected prime minister, a period in which so much focuses on the candidate's personality. The party holds faction meetings as well as meetings of the inner council and the central committee, and decisions are made at these meetings – even if there are arguments which may, on occasion, be stormy.

The Likud Party's institutions, in contrast, hold no meetings. The Likud convention is an enormous body, which meets on rare occasions, provides a forum for confrontation between the various groups (remember Booth No. 28?) and then disappears. Political and social issues are not debated at all.

The Hebron Agreement, signed by the Likud government and the PLO, was not discussed by the party's central committee. In fact, there is no Likud Party, and Michael Eitan correctly defined this situation recently when he stated that the Likud has become a lobby for the prime minister's reelection.

The disagreements within the Likud are strategic: There are those who oppose Oslo vigorously, such as Ze'ev (Benny) Begin, others like Dan Meridor have, under protest, come to terms with Oslo. Some, such as Meir Sheetrit, support the Oslo Accords.

The challenge to Netanyahu's leadership of the Likud is no secret: Benny Begin, Dan Meridor and David Levy all left the government primarily because of the prime minister's personality. Dan Meridor has announced that he will not run for the next Knesset on a list headed by Netanyahu. Ariel Sharon has informed the press he has no faith in Netanyahu and that he intends to run against him in the next elections.

Is the conclusion to be drawn from all this that it would be preferable if the Labor Party did not hold meetings of its institutions, thus concealing internal disagreements? Definitely not. I prefer serious discussion – which may create a sense of conflict – to autocracy. Nevertheless, it would undoubtedly be more prudent if the tones were a little less discordant.

Non-binding decisions

EVELYN GORDON

According to media reports, a committee set up by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi last year to draft recommendations on how the attorney-general should be chosen and what his powers should be is close to completing its work. The committee is reportedly still divided over the appointment procedures, but near-consensus exists on another issue: that the attorney-general's legal opinions should be binding on the government.

At first glance, this seems self-evident. The government must obey the law, so how can it be allowed to ignore its attorney-general's ruling that a particular action is illegal?

There are two problems with this position, however. The first, and most basic, is that only the courts should be able to issue binding legal rulings. The reason for this is that legal issues are rarely clear-cut. Lawyers, judges and scholars frequently disagree over how a law applies to a particular circumstance.

While the court system is far from infallible, its multi-layered system of appeals and, at the higher levels, its multi-judge panels help to ensure that the final ruling is a *synthesis of several jurists'* thought, rather than the decision of a single individual.

One of the most fundamental rights enjoyed by citizens of a democracy is therefore the right to reject their lawyer's advice and test their own – or another lawyer's – interpretation of the law in court.

Why, then, should the government be denied this right? There is no danger that letting the government ignore the attorney-general's rulings would enable it to break the law, since anyone can challenge state actions in the High Court of Justice – and several politicians and good-government groups would certainly do so.

And attorneys-general, like all human beings, occasionally make mistakes. There is, however, another reason why an attorney-general's opinion should not be binding on the government: the fact that such opinions often have more to do with ethics and policy than with law. To subordinate the government to a lawyer's legal opinion is bad enough, but to make it subservient to his judgments on policy and morality is intolerable.

PERHAPS one of the best examples of this is then attorney-general Yosef Harish's ruling, in August 1993, that prime minister Yitzhak Rabin must fire Shas leader Aryeh Deri as interior minister, because of Harish's decision to indict Deri for corruption.

Why should an unelected civil servant make important judgments in place of the elected government?

At the time, there was no applicable law relating to when an indicted minister must resign, but the Knesset's opinion seemed evident from a recently passed law due to take effect after the next elections – which required a minister to resign after being convicted. The well-known legal principle that a man is considered innocent until proven guilty could also have been brought in Deri's favor.

Nevertheless, Harish ruled that Deri must go – not because any law required it, but because this was the appropriate norm, according to fundamental principles of justice and government.

In short, Harish was issuing a normative opinion on what constituted proper governmental ethics, rather than a legal ruling.

In this case, the High Court sided with Harish, so the government's right to challenge the attorney-general did not avail it. Yet the fact that this was not a clear-cut issue – and that the government's view was also not unreasonable – became evident when attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair used the same argument to forbid Rafael Eitan to serve as police minister following the 1996 elections. Eitan was fully acquitted months later, but by then the position was closed. The net result of the attorney-general's moral judgment, therefore, was to punish an innocent man.

Attorneys-general have also become increasingly involved in policy. A good example was Ben-Yair's 1994 decision to forbid a coalition agreement between Labor and Shas.

The agreement stated that if the religious status quo were violated, the two sides would pass legislation to restore it. This is a classic policy trade-off of the sort all politicians must make: Rabin sacrificed an issue he deemed less important – the religious status quo – to ensure Shas's support for his major policy initiative: the peace process.

Here, too, there was nothing in the law that would make such a trade-off illegal. The main argument raised by the agreement's detractors was that the government was abdicating its responsibility to weigh every legislative proposal on its merits – a dubious argument, since coalition agreements are not legally binding, and therefore the government could not be forced to support a bill it disliked.

Indeed, Ben-Yair did not say the agreement was illegal – he merely said it was inappropriate, and not to be acted on. Yet this is precisely the sort of policy decision governments are elected to make. Had Labor's constituents considered this trade-off inappropriate, there were numerous ways for them to make their opinions felt – letters, demonstrations or, ultimately, the ballot box. Why should an unelected civil servant make such judgments in place of the elected government?

Few governments would lightly ignore an attorney-general's warning that an action was illegal. But to make his opinions binding is to give him the authority to make ethics and policy judgments in the government's stead. This is inappropriate for a democracy.

The Cuba question

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

Question: Will there be any change in existing policies on Cuba this year?

Answer: No. Because the anti-Castro people are perpetually refueled. Their lobby is a basso ostinato – drumbeat drumbeat drumbeat – on congressional sensibilities.

By contrast, those who believe that the situation would improve if the embargo were repealed are wispy theoretical and conventional voices in the recesses of the mind, saying the correct thing, but getting nowhere.

Proponents of repeal argue that what would most probably follow the repeal of the embargo is a hefty infusion of US capital, which would relieve the economic hunger of some Cubans.

Perhaps that would strengthen the pro-liberty dissenters, perhaps not.

But the difficulty embedded in arguing for repeal is seen in the language: "the anti-Castro people." Of course those who believe the embargo is not a good idea, for instance Milton Friedman and the Pope, are hardly pro-Castro people; yet any exchange on the subject tends to bog down with a description of the latest Castro atrocity, and this is never difficult to come up with because he is a very reliable supplier.

I OPINED at a recent exchange at which the question of the embargo came up that I could see three reasons why we levied it.

The first is that we are persuaded that somehow the embargo will bring down Castro. When? On the 30th anniversary of the embargo? No. That's past. On the 40th? It is likelier that Castro will die of old age before the 40th anniversary of the embargo, or that a comet will fall on him.

The second reason is that our pride is ruffled. We tried everything to stop Castro, and failed. We even tried to assassinate him, and failed. We are humiliated as a nation, and we are sore losers. So our policy becomes: Be unpleasant economically.

Is there a statute of limitations on property theft by foreign governments?

The third reason is the political pressure, which pays psychological dividends. Castro's economy goes down one degree; our satisfaction level goes up one degree.

But those who want to continue the embargo are also backers of the Helms-Burton bill. Its most tantalizing provision is on the face of it appealing. The bill dates back to 1996, and it says an American can sue any non-American company that engages in any economic activity with any Cuban entity that once belonged to an American corporation or individual, but was confiscated by Fidel Castro.

Now, all honorable impulses incline to applaud the sentiments that generated the law. Assume a hypothetical situation. The Montpelier Co. owned in 1959 a thousand-foot stretch of prime Havana beach with a 500-room hotel. Enter Castro, who confiscates it. Thirty-five years later, Castro contracts with the Forte's Co. Ltd. of London to reconstruct the hotel and get it operating again. Forte's also owns a hotel in Chicago. Under Helms-Burton, Montpelier can file a civil suit against Forte's and hold the Chicago hotel liable for damages. You see, Forte's has been dealing with stolen property.

It is heartwarming, this prolonged concern for stolen property. In the best of all possible worlds, the deadlock would be broken by negotiation: Forte's would send an ambassador to Montpelier and decide on some kind of division of profits from the restoration of the old hotel. That hasn't happened.

Dramatists take the hypothetical problem a step further. Theoretically, some argue, under the law you could petition the courts to take action against all intermediary carriers in the condemned deal, e.g. the planes and ships that brought men and material to Cuba to undertake the reconstruction. They are complicit in a stolen-property operation.

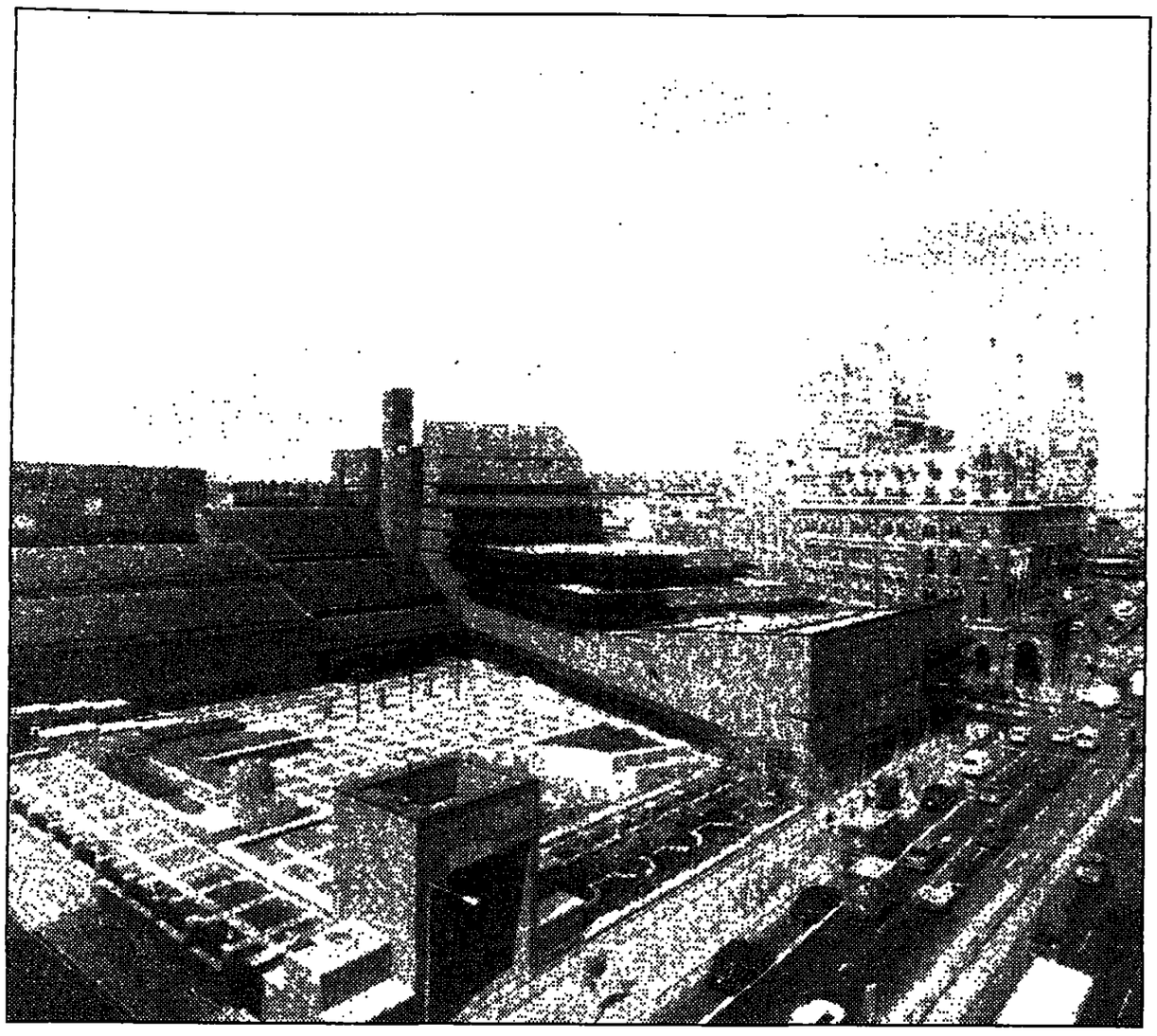
What's wrong with that? It is very appealing in theory. But it does raise vexing questions, e.g., do the Apaches still own Arizona, and does Nicholas Romanov of Switzerland still own the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg?

Is there a statute of limitations on property theft by foreign governments? The question is posed without an answer tucked away in the sleeve of the questioner. Punditry on this point is taking a one-day vacation.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

It's a clean, well-lit place

It took vision and grit for architect Mary Jane Long to survive the 35-year gestation of the British Library that opened last month. Israeli librarians can only dream of a similar reader-friendly bonanza, writes Esther Hecht



In designing the new British Library, Long and Wilson kept in mind its neighbors on Euston Street, including the neo-Gothic Saint Pancras Station. (Irene Rhoden)



Fellow architects and husband and wife Colin St. John Wilson and Mary Jane Long in the entrance hall of their joint project, the British Library (Gerhard Stromberg)

When Mary Jane Long set out to design a new home for the 12 million volumes of the British Museum Library, she thought first about the people who would be reading them.

What she came up with is a reader-friendly library that offers, among other things, waist-high doors with latches that open with a nudge of the elbow – a must for someone walking through a reading room carrying an armload of books.

The queen opened the British Library on June 27.

The 35-year project was so vast (more than half of the planned 200,000 square meters have been built) that keeping the reader in mind was a struggle, Long said. How she and her architect husband, Colin ("Sandy") St. John Wilson, did so was the subject of her presentation to the fourth biennial Jerusalem Seminar on Architecture last month. The international event was sponsored by Yad Hanadiv (the Rothschild Foundation).

The seminar, entitled "Megaform as Urban Landscape," focused on the design of large, institutional buildings in today's chaotic sprawl of cities where large-scale urban planning is often impossible.

What is left for architects and planners to do then, said seminar chairman Kenneth Frampton, is design single, unrelated structures that can, at most, transform their immediate surroundings.

One way to do this is to conceive of a large institutional building, like the British Library, as a megaform – a horizontal structure, closely connected to the ground, that becomes part of the city's topography.

But an architect focusing on structure should not forget the people who will eventually inhabit the building they design, Long said.

"For a megaform to work, the view of the individual is important. In a library, you have to try to make a place for everybody. If you do that, you have a big building that doesn't put people down."

As a result, Long and her husband planned the British Library from the inside out.

First, Long refused to succumb to the prevailing belief, especially among librarians, that in the name of flexibility all spaces should be anonymous, potentially interchangeable, and preferably without daylight.

Instead, Long suited design to function, especially in the library's entrance and the main reading room. Thus, a reader entering the building immediately sees the main destinations and needn't rely on directional signs.

In the design of the large reading rooms, too, the reader became the focus.

The final result did not resemble at all the famous domed reading room of the British Museum, designed in the middle of the last century with an enormous, circular and cast-iron bookstack and radiating rows of reading desks.

LIKE other designers of modern libraries, Long had in mind as an ideal the painting of *St. Jerome In His Study*, by the 15th-century Venetian artist Antonello da Messina.

The painting shows St. Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin and was one of the most learned of the church fathers, at work in Bethlehem. He is seated on a comfortable chair at a desk in a niche. The niche is in a large hall, and through the windows one can see a rolling rural landscape.

The painting conveys an image of quiet concentration along with the option of a release – looking up from the page to take in a view.

"But you couldn't give 3,000 readers individual cubicles; you would end up with a rabbit warren," she said.

Daylight was also important so that readers could be aware of the changing of the seasons, but desk-level windows were out because direct ultraviolet light damages old manuscripts. The solution was natural light from high windows.

Long also recognized that each reader has different needs with regard to space and the degree of quiet.

A series of terraces gives readers the choice of sitting with their backs against a wall on an upper level or below on a terrace with a ceiling over their heads.

To overcome the acoustic problem of the old reading room that was generated by having the service counters in the reading room's center, Long put the service desks under the terraces.

And, for the most part, she chose natural materials, "because they feel right and they survive kicking over many years."

The tortuously long gestation of the British Library was an acute example of any building funded by public money, as well as a function of British organization, said the American-born Long.

When the French set out to replace the Bibliotheque Nationale, they set aside the money with the intention of building as quickly as possible, she said.

But in Britain, the money came out of the operating budget for culture, forcing the library to compete with dance companies each year for funds.

The conception and site of the library changed, too.

According to the first scheme, it was to have replaced only the British Museum Library, housed in 16 locations around the city. The decision to add the Library of Science and Patents doubled the size of the project and required a redesign, especially since readers tend to use the two libraries in very different ways: Those who use the latter tend to pop in, look up something quickly and leave, while users of the former tend to sit in the library from morning to night.

Then the location was changed to its current site, on Euston Street opposite neo-Gothic St. Pancras Station, and yet another redesign was necessary.

Long started working on the library in 1966 when she joined Wilson's office, which had received the commission. Hundreds of junior architects were involved over the decades. Only in retrospect did she realize that she and Wilson had kept the project alive by switching roles.

"In the beginning, the scheme of the building came from me," Long said.

"Then I became involved in the practical end. We preserved Sandy as the person who wasn't involved in the politics of the changing brief. His optimism remained unshaken. It kept us going. If all of us had been buried in the daily stuff, it would have been easy to lose the thread."

The long, slow creation of the building had a few bright spots also. It enabled the architects to plan every detail and to deal with the "eye-level view and the tactile experience" of the individual that Long believes is so important in a big building.

"The opportunity to make doors, light fixtures and readers' tables is terrific," she said.

Long not only considered the readers in her construction plan for the library, she also was considerate of the books.

Unlike the new French library, which was built as a sculptural monument of glass towers with the books on top and readers on the bottom, the British Library houses its volumes underground. That is the safest place to put them, Long said, because it provides the most stable conditions of humidity, even in the event of a short-term power outage.

Next, Long tackled the problem of getting the books to the readers in the most efficient way. Hi-tech was not the answer for a building with a life expectancy of 100 years.

True, book requests are conveyed by computer, and the addressing system involves swiping the book's container and the designated reading room with a light pen.

BUT Long investigated, and rejected, a variety of book-delivery systems, including pneumatic tubes, an automated picking system, even devices like an electric train that could run horizontally and vertically. All the options were prohibitively cumbersome, expensive, or too risky because they were made by only one manufacturer.

"We had to go back to simple technology, so you would know there would be a number of people who could replace or repair the system," Long said.

"We've ended up with something that looks like the 19th century: conveyer belts and paternoster elevators made of bicycle chains and nuts and bolts."

Nevertheless, the British Library is also ultra-modern with computer terminals and floors that allow easy access to the wiring, which will have to be ripped out and replaced as electronic systems change.

For all the planning and money (£450 million) poured into the British Library, and despite its life expectancy, it is already filled to capacity with books. This is a painful subject for Long.

"The site we are on was chosen because it allowed for foreseeable growth for 100 years," she said.

Unfortunately for the library, its construction in a neglected part of the city generated interest among developers and the government decided to sell the remainder of the site.

Meanwhile, despite fears that books are going out of fashion, the publishing rate keeps going up in a parabolic curve, Long said.

And, as a national archive, the library is committed to keeping one copy of every book published in England.

But what really determines the size of the library is the number of people using it, and that number is constant, she said.

"If you need an archive to keep a unique copy [of a book], you can put it in Yorkshire and bring it in."

Long's presentation in Jerusalem was followed intently by Tel Aviv architect Moshe Gil. His firm – Nadler, Bixon, Gil – has designed libraries throughout the country, including those of Tel Aviv and Ben-Gurion universities, and the Jewish National and University Library (JNUL) in Jerusalem.

Gil suggested that no building, not even the best-planned library, can remain relevant for more than a few decades.

"The philosophy of the building loses its relevance much faster than the material," he said. "The buildings keep standing, but sometimes you have to change the conception."

Conception is the crux of the problem of the JNUL, opened in 1960 with a planned capacity of 2 million volumes, which it has long since surpassed.

Its unusual status as both a national repository and a university library, which made sense when the Hebrew University was established in the Twenties, is both its strength and its weakness.

There are those who fear severing the link with the university and opening the national library's acquisitions policy to political influences.

"[Yet] there is something abnormal about the library being a department of the university" when it comes to funding, said Dr. Jonathan Joel, deputy director of the JNUL.

Plans for the technological advancement of the library – as well as a new wing or an entire building – have existed for a long time, but have been delayed for budgetary reasons, Joel said.

Some problems, like book capacity, seem inherent in the conception of a national library. In truth, no building will ever be large enough, he said, because a national library, as the "national archive of published works," strives, within reasonable limits, to preserve the original publications.

"No national library is willing to just photograph the original, throw away the book, and make do with a CD-ROM," he said.

The exception is periodicals and newspapers, which the JNUL generally discards after copying them on microfiche. In this, as in the British Library's book delivery system, a low-tech storage system is the method of choice because it doesn't require updating as technology changes.

The JNUL's main mission is to acquire and preserve works that express or describe the cultural heritage and the history of the Jews, Palestine, Israel and the Israelis.

This includes everything published in Eretz Yisrael and Israel, including the territories, and in every language, including Arabic.

It also encompasses everything published in Hebrew characters worldwide and everything in Jewish languages – including Ladino, Yiddish and Judeo-Arabic. Biographies of Jews and (creative) writings by Jews – including letters and composers' scores – are also part of the JNUL's mandate.

The library also has extensive collections on the Middle East, general history, and the history and philosophy of science.

Joel insists the no important collection pertaining to the library's national function has been turned away for lack of space.

"If something is important we'll find room for it," he said.

But the overflow is kept in storerooms on the Mount Scopus campus and in Givat Shaul where, according to a report by the Jerusalem weekly *Kol Ha'ir* last year, storage conditions are far from optimal and rare books have suffered water damage.

Meanwhile, Joel and his colleagues can only dream of a local equivalent of the new British Library.

Any national library is a visual icon of a nation's reverence for its culture and tends to inspire awe. But sometimes the library's sheer mass and inscrutable walls evoke scorn as well.

Prince Charles reportedly likened the new British Library building's angular structure, with its small windows and large slabs of unbroken wall, to "an academy for secret police."

But Long is satisfied that her creation fulfills its megaform function successfully, perhaps even too well.

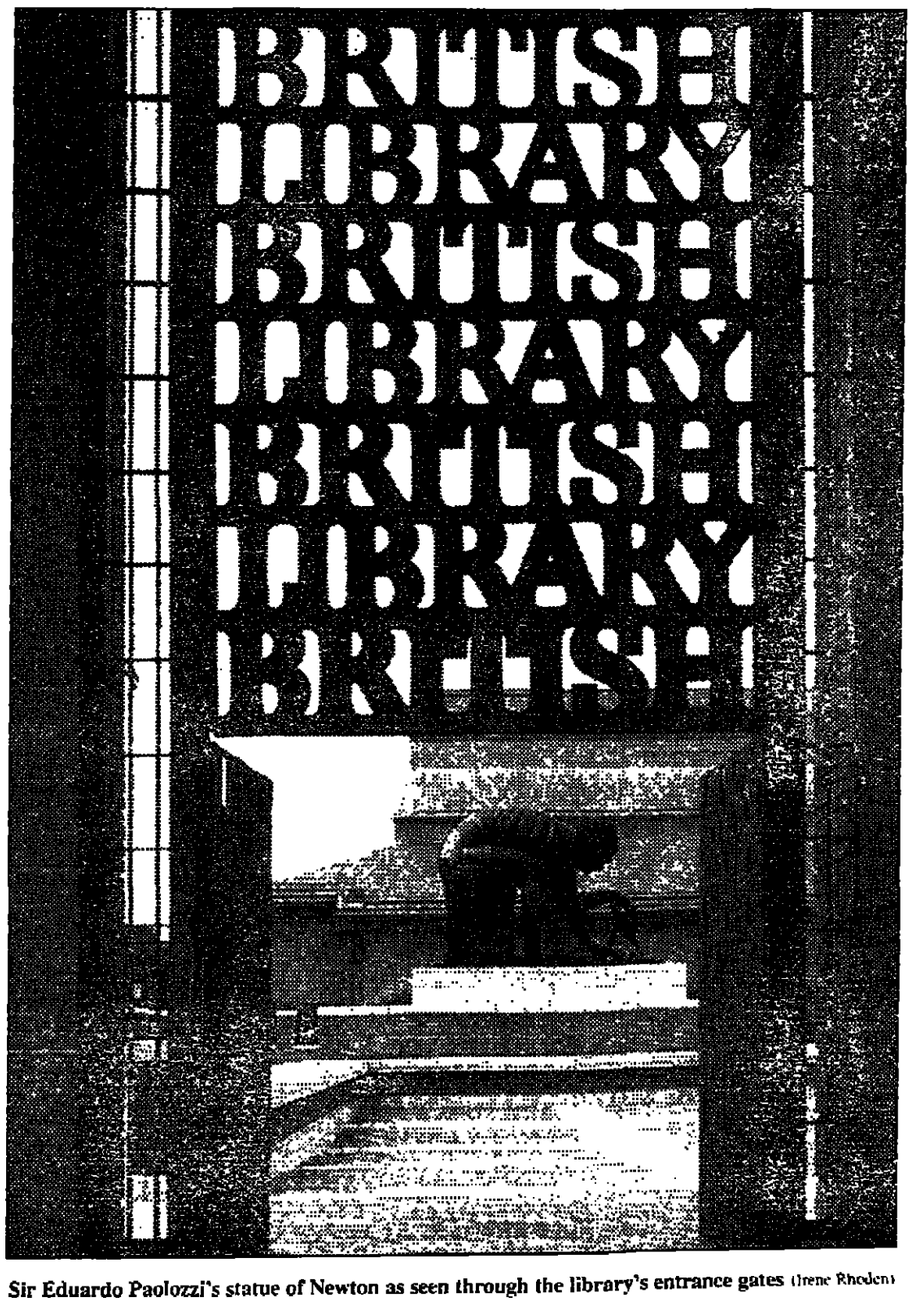
"It's like a runaway horse," she said, referring to development plans for the rest of the site and the pressure to complete the building, originally meant to be left unfinished so it could expand.

The soundness of the basic scheme won the day, even though what was to have been the back of the library is now the front. "The basic anatomy has shown some resilience," she said.

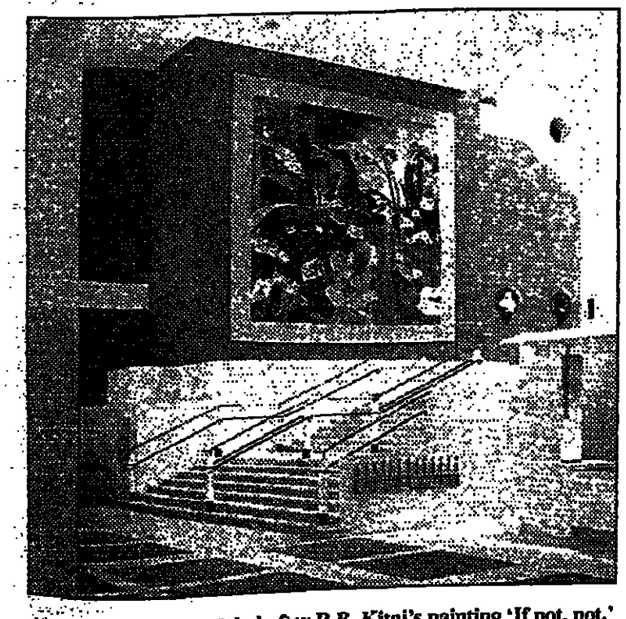
Best of all is the response of the individual readers who were her primary concern.

Some people had objected to moving the library because it meant giving up the historic reading room, where, for example, Karl Marx worked on *Das Kapital*. But the new main reading room has won them over, Long said.

"We've had endless letters from old readers saying they prefer the new one."



Sir Eduardo Paolozzi's statue of Newton as seen through the library's entrance gates (Irene Rhoden)



A woven tapestry modeled after R.B. Kitaj's painting 'If not, not,' hangs in the entrance hall to the new library. (Irene Rhoden)

Mom vs. multitasking

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

As a schoolgirl, I had an ongoing argument with my mother. I would insist that I was perfectly capable of doing my homework while watching television as effectively as if I was huddled silently over my desk.

She begged to differ. Concentrating was the only way she believed one could successfully complete a job.

She entirely rejected my preferred method of doing homework: watching cartoons while gossiping with my friends on the telephone. Focusing on one thing at a time, she said, was the only way you could do anything well.

But that was back in the days when the only two things that one was expected to be able to do simultaneously was walk and chew gum.

In retrospect, it seems as if parents like mine prepared their kids badly for life in today's technological jungle. Today, it has become clear that in order to breed successful working habits, one must encourage one's offspring to learn to do as many things as possible simultaneously.

It has become simply passé to accomplish merely one task at a time. Everyone is talking on the telephone, composing letters on their computer, checking their e-mail and beepers, fax machines and cellphone message boards at the same time.

Often, they are doing all of the above while driving. And in order to give this frenetic activity an official stamp of approval, our society has even come up with a fancy name for it: multitasking. Multitasking has become the buzzword of the 1990s. By striving for the ability to multitask, we are actually attempting to emulate our computer.

The word originated as a term for the way a microprocessor keeps lots of computer programs running simultaneously. There is good news for us females here: multitasking is one area in which women are believed to have an edge. While men have been bred to do their best when focusing on a single-minded goal – hunting wild boar, running a race, competing for a client – women through the ages have been expected be able to juggle many activities at the same time. Even while nagging me to concentrate on my homework, my mother was usually multitasking herself: vacuuming, cooking, talking on the phone and soothing a screaming child. Of course, back then, her activity fell under the far less glamorous category of "being a housewife."

Those of us who telecommute have become the masters of the ultimate challenge of multitasking.

"Oh," people exclaim with envy when I tell them I work from home. "I'm so jealous."

I know that they are conjuring up images of stretching out on a lawn chair with a laptop. I'm not saying that the arrangement doesn't have its advantages. But it is also true that work and household duties often become jumbled together into a mountain of multitasking hell.

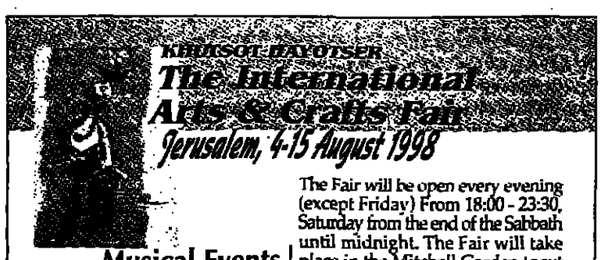
I bet that even the most high-powered computer would overload trying to conduct an interview on the phone, send a story in over the Internet, supervise repairmen in the house, run a load of laundry, monitor the news on the radio, cook dinner, and keep a toddler entertained, all at the same time.

As a heavy-duty multitasker, one runs the risk of losing friends and alienating acquaintances. There is a fine line between being efficient and being rude. There are times when I have been simultaneously talking to a friend on the telephone and putting a news story through a final editing process, when the friend asks in a cold voice, "Why do I hear clicking in the background?"

But the idea of committing the odd social faux pas does not bother me as much as the possibility that my true genius has gotten buried under all of this flurry of activity – and that my children's potential may also not be realized if they are similarly distracted. After all, could Michelangelo have completed the Sistine Chapel, or Beethoven composed great symphonies, with a cacophony of beepers, cellphones and modems in the background?

So while it is clear that under the modern definition of success – it's not what you do, but how many things you do simultaneously – I come out a winner, I can't get rid of this nagging feeling that Mom might have been right all along. Maybe we all would be doing a whole lot better if we just learned to concentrate?

"Multitasking has become a buzzword of the 1990s. By striving for the ability to multitask, we are actually attempting to emulate our computer."



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Saudi Arabian women are banned from socializing with men, other than close relatives.

Behind the veil

They can't deal face-to-face with men, and most work in fields traditionally reserved for females. But some Saudi Arabian women are opening their own businesses. **Eileen Alt Powell** investigates

A blue-uniformed guard outside the door is the last man you see when you enter the new "ladies only" shopping center in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh.

What sets Al-Multaka apart from other malls is not that it's for women as customers but that it's owned, managed and staffed by them.

It's one sign of a surprising trend in this conservative kingdom that has seen a growing number of women working outside the home. Some work because they need the money, others simply because they have more chances to use their education.

Most work in fields traditionally reserved for women, such as education and health care, though some have started dabbling in retailing, marketing, banking and even industry.

To do so, they must accommodate strict Saudi social customs requiring women to be covered in public and segregated from men. And they have to be creative about travel in a country where women are banned from driving.

At Al-Multaka, which was opened by Saudi fashion designer Lama Aggad, women can check their floor-length *abaya* robes and head scarves at the door while they shop with assistance from an all-woman sales force.

Electricians and other repairmen come only at night, after closing hours, and a lot of management tasks that involve dealing with men are accomplished by phone and fax, said Laura Collins, Al-Multaka's general manager.

"We have very good relations with our customs clearing agents by phone, but we've never met them," said Collins, an American woman married to a Saudi businessman.

ECONOMISTS ESTIMATE that some 240,000 Saudi women are working and that their numbers are increasing annually as more schools, hospitals, banks and other institutions are opened to handle the kingdom's fast-growing population.

Still, working Saudi women represent just a fraction of the country's estimated 14 million nationals. In addition, some 600,000 foreign women, most from Asian and African countries, are employed in the kingdom, often as housekeepers and nannies.

"Social and family values are strong inhibitors to Saudi women working," said Omar Bagour, an economics professor at King Abdul-Aziz University in the port city of Jedda.

"Girls are not brought up to see work as a career," he added. "Work is a transitory thing, something she does until she marries or has children."

A key reason is that Saudi Arabia adheres to the strict Wahhabi sect of Islam.

Women are veiled, educated in segregated schools and banned from socializing with men except close relatives. Those who challenge the system risk being detained by the *mutawwa*, or religious police.

At hospitals – one of the few places in the kingdom where workers are integrated – women staffers turn their photo IDs toward their chests so men won't see pictures of them without their veils.

Some women skirt the rules by using phones and faxes or networking with women friends to do market surveys, sell time-shares in resorts or arrange trade shows

BUT WOMEN are finding ways to work, often targeting potential customers their male counterparts can't or won't – women.

Mona Nomrossi, who founded her own advertising agency in Jedda three years ago, produces a book of some of the city's fancier jewelry, clothing and housewares stores for distribution at hotels and other tourist sites.

Rula Shugairi, an official at the United Saudi Bank in Jedda, points out that women's banking is a growing business.

USB women's branches in the western region alone have increased to 11 from two in the past 14 years, she said, and some are larger than associated men's branches.

"In our religion, ladies have control of their own money," Shugairi said.

Women's branches "offer them privacy" as well as stock market services, letters of credit for trade and overdraft accounts to help businesswomen manage their cash flow.

Women who want to work in non-traditional fields say their biggest problem is finding employers who will hire them.

The government – an almost exclusively all-male preserve – bans women from getting licenses in real estate, engineering, contracting and other professions deemed men's work.

But there are women working quietly in back offices in most of these fields, leaving the job of public contacts to their male colleagues.

Some women skirt the rules by using phones and faxes or networking with women friends to do market surveys, sell time-shares in resorts or arrange trade shows.

Things are changing, if slowly, because Saudi women are becoming better educated, said Aziza Mane'e, a professor of education at King Saudi University in Riyadh.

And despite the kingdom's oil wealth, "there are a lot of young couples who need two incomes to make it," she said.

Mane'e argues that "a big obstacle" to women working is their inability to drive – making them dependent on chauffeurs or buses where they must sit in the back, behind a partition.

Mane'e was among 47 women who challenged the kingdom's ban by driving through the streets of Riyadh in November 1990. For that protest, she and the other drivers were suspended from their jobs for three years.

"We didn't get public support then, even from the women," Mane'e said. "It's only a matter of time before this changes. I am sure of it." (AP)

Don't call it love

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Dear Ruthie.

My problem started when I met this guy and fell in love. I didn't plan to love him. It just happened, in spite of the fact that I was aware of his being committed to somebody else. And don't tell me you can't fall in love with someone who is already committed to somebody else.

Then I began calling him all the time. Once I even told him how I feel. Finally, one day he told me that he loved his girlfriend and that I could find someone better. It really hurt when he turned me down, especially since he is the only man I really care for. So I ignored what he said and keep phoning. I know he is just humoring me because he is a civilized person. But after each conversation with him, I feel great emptiness inside, since I know he doesn't even like me.

On one occasion I even went so far as to try and seduce him. He stared at me, and said: "You didn't even cross my mind, let alone my heart." I felt really ashamed and rejected. He is the only guy that I thought I could surrender everything to.

Now it's been almost a month since I've heard from him. Every day I struggle not to call him. I don't know how long I'll be able to hold on.

I don't know what to do. It's as if my heart died and now I wish my body would die, too, so I could stop feeling the pain.

I know I'll never be in love again the way I love him.

Lost in Love

Somewhere in Israel

Dear Lost.

If the pain in your heart is so great as to cause you to want to harm your body, you must get help immediately. The fact that you turned to me for advice indicates that you are open to receiving help from someone who will listen, not to judge your behavior, but to bring you closer to an understanding of it. And when you can understand why this man triggered such powerful feelings in you, you will be far better equipped to get on with your life – hopefully without ending up similarly obsessed in the future.

The fact that the target of your obsession is committed to another woman is as relevant as it is understandable. Not only does it provide you with endless ammunition against yourself (i.e. feelings of shame and rejection), it also prevents any actual relationship from being played out. This enables you to hold onto this man as a symbol, as opposed to forcing you to see him as a human being – with flaws. Therefore, you can believe that you will never be able to love anybody else the way you do him.

Your aim here should not be to "hold on" and not phone him. He is irrelevant. Your real goal should be to achieve the feeling of self-worth which will remove your desire to do so. All of us possess the inclination to seek out and use others to serve as proof of what we feel about ourselves. Many of us call this drive "love" – particularly when we succeed in finding a member of the opposite sex to play the role of catalyst for our most powerful negative feelings.

Professional counseling may not "cure" you of this "love." But if it can help you give a different name to the phenomenon, it will have been worth it.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For e-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ('Dear Ruthie' also appears in In Jerusalem *and in* City Lights *on Fridays.)*

Grapevine

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

The discord which has characterized the Labor Party of late was temporarily put on hold on Saturday night as Laborites and their spouses converged on the Kochav Yair home of party leader **Ehud Barak** and his wife Nava for a sing-along. The evening featured a harmonious duet between Barak and former prime minister **Shimon Peres**, whose acrimonious exchanges towards the end of last week destroyed any pretense of party unity. Labor secretary-general **Ra'anan Cohen** was also present despite the constant bickering between him and Barak. MK **Uzi Baram**, a former Labor secretary-general, arrived with his fiancee **Aviva Eidan**, with whom he is due to tie the knot next month. Others who joined in the singing included **Rafi Edri, Haim** and **Paina Ramon, Binyamin** and **Dolly Ben-Eliezer, Yossi** and **Helena Beilin** and most other Labor MKs.

JUST a few weeks after television owners received a bill for NIS 46 on top of the previously approved and in many cases already paid NIS 466 license fee for 1998, came the announcement that **Chaim Yavin** is returning to Channel 1 to his old spot as *Mabat* anchorman at a reported annual salary of NIS 1.3 million (although Yavin has denied this figure)! The additional sum tagged on to the license fee, Broadcasting Authority director general **Uri Porat** told the Knesset and the public, was to offset the discount given to senior citizens. If that's the case, how can he justify the huge pay-out to Yavin? The general public was already unhappy about having to pick up the tab for the third age (of which Yavin is also a member).

Porat has long held Yavin in special esteem, appointing him head of Israel Television soon after assuming his previous term as IBA director-general. This time around, he made it known early on that he wanted to bring back Channel 1's old stars. He failed with **Rafi Ginat** but not with Yavin, who has been released from his contract with Channel 2 franchisee Keshet, and resumes his duties at Channel 1 on September 1, regardless of the fact that his ratings when he left last year were considerably lower than those achieved in the interim by **Geula Even**.

ANOTHER veteran but somewhat younger broadcaster, **Alex Ansky** has been deluged with fan mail since leaving his daybreak program on Army Radio. It's not that Ansky hasn't taken a break from the program in the past – but this time it's unlikely to be a temporary thing. By mutual consent, Ansky has relinquished the early-bird slot. Not all the fan letters were in Hebrew. **Linda Livni**, a Jerusalem listener, wrote an eloquent epistle in English in which she stated, "I wonder if I shall ever again see sweet clouds in the sky 'just for decoration' because without the pleasant filter of your eyes, the raging light of reality is blinding." Livni adds: "....I hoped by some miracle your magic would survive the forces of mediocrity, conceit and arrogance."

AND while on the subject of Army Radio, one of the newcomers to the station is **Ido Shai**, whose father **Nahman Shai**, currently director-general of The Second Television Authority, was formerly the commander-in-chief of Army Radio.

SECOND-generation broadcasters and print-media journalists are fairly commonplace in Israel. But, third-generation are still comparatively rare. One of the most recent members of this elite group is **Roni Selinger**, daughter of **Tali Lipkin-Shahak** and her first husband **Benny Selinger**. Lipkin-Shahak became the first woman military reporter in Israel while working for the now defunct *Davar*. Her late father Azaria Rapaport was the country's first official military reporter; and Roni Selinger has just been accepted to a communications course being conducted by IDF spokesman **Oded Ben-Ami**, former spokesman for Yitzhak Rabin and a longtime radio and television broadcaster.

ANYONE who expected that the Egyptian Independence Day celebrations would provide an encore of the separate ceremonies of US Independence Day involving President **Ezer Weizman** and Prime Minister **Binyamin Netanyahu** was definitely disappointed. The president and the prime minister entered the reception area on the lawns of the Daniel Hotel, Herzliya within a minute of one other. Each was given a musical fanfare as they greeted Egyptian ambassador **Mohammed Bassiouny** and his wife, Nagwa, but that's about as separate as it got. The two men and their wives shared a VIP table on the hotel balcony, and the only speech given on behalf of Israel was by Netanyahu. Popular as the president may be, it was Netanyahu and his wife Sara who attracted the crowd and who good-naturedly agreed to pose for photos with the public before sampling the Middle Eastern and Far Eastern cuisine. In his address, Netanyahu praised the leadership of Egyptian president **Hosni Mubarak** and described the relationship between Israel and Egypt as "sound and strong." With regard to the relationship between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Netanyahu declared: "Peace is happening as we speak." Other ministers present included Defense Minister **Yitzhak Mordechai**, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav. Agriculture Minister **Rafael Eitan**, who for the first time ever attended an Egyptian Independence Day Celebration, arrived after the speeches as did Ehud Barak and Shimon Peres. There were many MKs in attendance, but not Shas leader **Aryeh Deri**, who was represented by his wife **Yaffa**. The huge cake with sphinx and pyramid decorations was not shared with the guests, but was donated by Nagwa Bassiouny to Schneider children's hospital.



PM Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara at the Egyptian Independence Day celebrations at Herzliya's Daniel Hotel (Israel Sun)

FORMER *Rand Daily Mail* reporter **Benjamin Pogrund**, who was discredited by lying witnesses in a show trial following his 1965 expose on South Africa's shameful prison system, has learned that **Willem Boshoff**, one of several white prisoners who perjured themselves, has reversed his testimony with an apology to Pogrund and former *Rand Daily Mail* editor **Laurence Gandar**. After Gandar and Pogrund were found guilty, no South African newspaper reported on prison conditions for two decades.

Pogrund, who now lives in Jerusalem after spending many years in Britain and the US where he worked for leading publications and wrote several books, appealed last year to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission to have his and Gandar's names cleared and struck from court records. He believes that they are about to be exonerated. The good news came just in time for Pogrund to include it in his new book being published in the US. The book is a tribute to those journalists who, at great risk to their personal safety, wrote stories exposing the evils of apartheid.

FIRST it was his new bathroom in the Knesset which got Knesset Speaker **Dan Tichon** into hot water. But that was just a trickle. If a cover story in last week's Jerusalem weekly *Kol Ha'ir* is correct, Tichon is in for a deluge. According to the article, there are certain irregularities and building excesses in Tichon's new home in Malcha. The story also alleges that Knesset maintenance workers did the renovations in Tichon's current home in Ramot as well as in his new abode. The question is whether Tichon will be able to put this episode behind him as easily as that of the Knesset bathroom.

(UN)TRUTH in advertising: While lauding the joys of a certain luxury retirement home, 70-something singer **Yaffa Yarkoni** has yet to take her own advice, even though the commercial suggests that she is actually living there. Yarkoni, in fact, continues to reside at her downtown Tel Aviv apartment where she prepares both her shows and food for her family.

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HSBC buys 4.15% Bezeq stake for $102m. as custodian for C&W

By DAN GERSTENFELD

US investment house Merrill Lynch & Co. has sold a 4.15 percent stake in Bezeq Israel Telecom to HSBC Investment Bank, HSBC announced last night. HSBC reportedly has agreed to sell the shares to British Cable & Wireless in the future.

Merrill Lynch said it sold the shares for $102 million, but declined to name the buyer. However, HSBC said it has purchased the shares.

Once the deal is completed, HSBC reportedly will sell the stocks to C&W in a hedging transaction, which allows the telecom company to acquire the 31 million shares at some point in the future for a price of $3.3 per share, which is close to Bezeq's closing price on Sunday on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Under the terms of the agreement, C&W would not acquire the shares before August 20 next year.

Earlier this year, Communications Minister Limor Livnat authorized C&W to increase its stake in Bezeq from 10.2% to 13%. It then purchased a 2.5% stake from Merrill Lynch for $63m., reflecting a price of NIS 12 per share ($3.30).

At that time, Livnat also gave C&W permission to increase its holdings to 20% after August 1999. It is therefore believed that HSBC acquired the shares on behalf of C&W, allowing the company to protect itself against a possible rise in the price of Bezeq stock, which gained some 35% since the beginning of the year.

Through the transaction, Merrill Lynch reduces its holdings in Bezeq from 6.42% to 2.27%. Merrill Lynch, the world's largest equities underwriter, purchased its shares of Bezeq a year ago as part of a deal in which it acquired a 12.5% stake in Bezeq from the government for $250m. Merrill Lynch paid an average price of about $2.6 per share, which is some 30% lower than Bezeq's current share price.

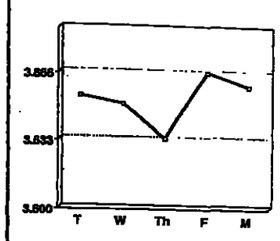
According to the agreement signed with the Government Company Authority, Merrill Lynch will transfer part of its profit to the government, which is expected to receive some $5m. from the recent deal.

The investment house said last month that it has purchased another 0.6% of Bezeq by acquiring stocks on the TASE. The move was probably an attempt to secure the deal with HSBC.

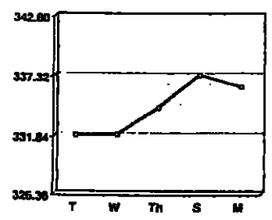
C&W also seems to be the obvious candidate to purchase Merrill Lynch's remaining Bezeq holdings. This can be done directly after August 1999, or through HSBC or another company meanwhile.

MARKETS in brief

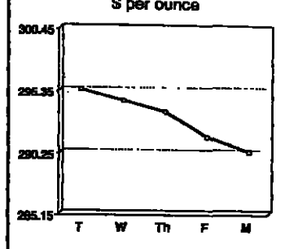
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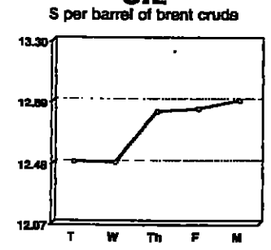
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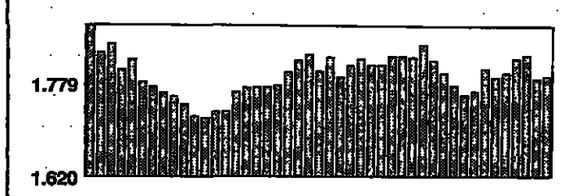
GOLD
$ per ounce



OIL
$ per barrel of brent crude

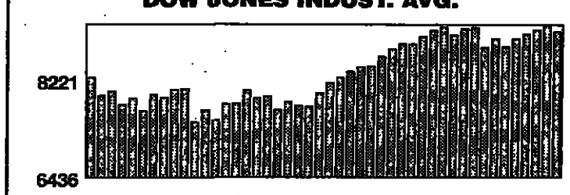


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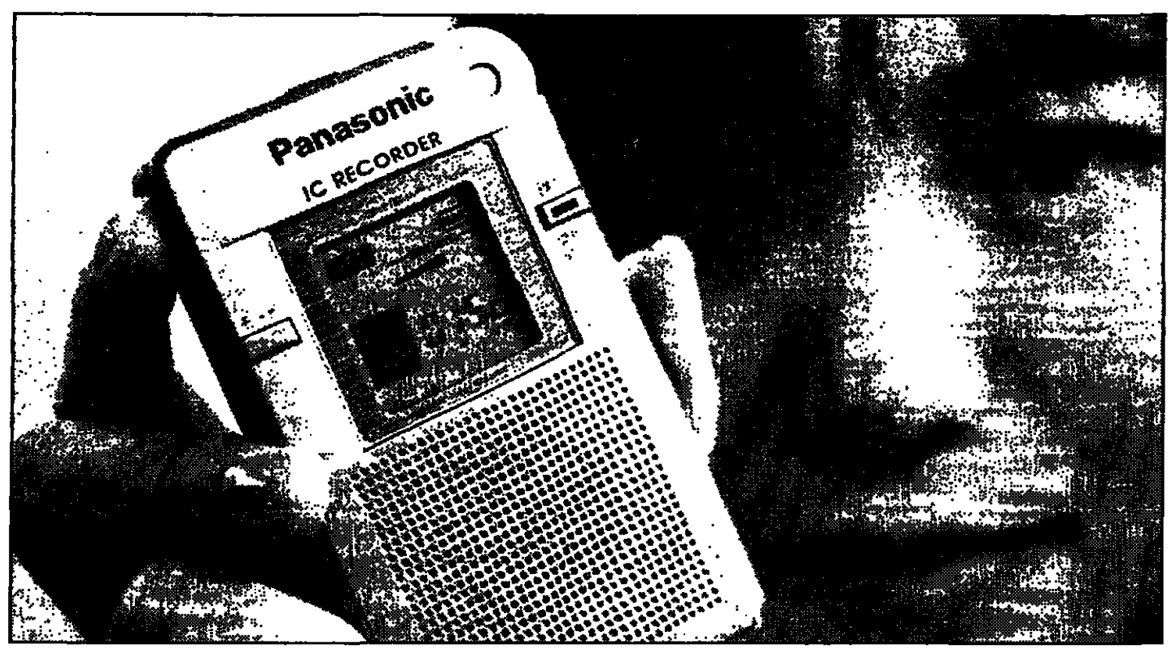


July 1997 – July 1998

FIBI praised by Euromoney

The First International Bank of Israel has received an award for excellence from the British magazine *Euromoney*, which chose it as the best bank in Israel. According to *Euromoney*, "FIBI is the fastest growing and most profitable bank in Israel. Unencumbered by the debts to kibbutzim and municipalities." The magazine adds that the bank has one of the cleanest credit portfolios and the lowest bad-debt provisions. *Euromoney* chose Citibank as the best regional bank, saying it has no real competition as it is the only financial institution to have a significant presence in every important banking market in the region.

Dan Gerstenfeld



Tapeless wonder
Matsushita Electric plans to market Panasonic's new credit card-size recorder starting September 1. The new tapeless product can record 60 minutes of audio and sells for $105. Panasonic intends to produce 3,000 units per month and will also export the recorder to Europe from August and other parts of Asia from September. (Reuters)

Central bank cuts rate by 0.3%

By DAVID HARRIS

The Bank of Israel's key lending rate will be cut by 30 basis points in August to 11 percent, the central bank announced yesterday.

This will be the seventh consecutive monthly cut, with interest rates having been cut 2.4% since the start of the year. Since the Netanyahu government came to power in 1996, the central bank's rate has been cut 6%.

"The decision was taken because of the current inflation environment and predictions concerning the influence of other factors, such as real activity in the economy and the development of prices abroad," according to a statement from the central bank.

The Bank of Israel said that the drop in rates since January has led to a reduction in the gap between Israeli and foreign interest rates. The bank once again warned of the need for caution in lowering interest rates, particularly in light of the financial uncertainty currently being felt in many of the world's capital markets as a result of the Asian crisis.

On the day the Central Bureau of Statistics published data showing unemployment rose to 9.3% in May, the central bank called for a reduction in the size of the public sector in order to allow for a reduction in the tax burden, while increasing expenditures on infrastructure. The bank also called for additional spending on research and development.

"The steps will contribute to the creation of jobs also in the short term," the statement read.

Meanwhile, the bureau published a variety of statistics for May and June which "don't point to a turnaround in economic activity."

Arkia buys new aircraft; opens Nigerian company

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Arkia, Israel's second-largest airline, is branching out further into the overseas market by setting up an airline in Nigeria. The company also is purchasing aircraft for some $300 million.

Speaking at a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday, Arkia president and CEO Israel Borovich said that the company realized some years ago that if it wanted to expand significantly it needed to enter the market of charter flights abroad.

"We saw that the only way to grow was to go beyond the borders of Israel," he said.

The company is buying three ATR 72-500s for $55m. The aircraft, produced by the European Airbus Industrie, have 72 seats and are to be delivered beginning December of this year, mainly for flights to Eilat.

Arkia also is buying two Boeing 757-300s for $125m., to be delivered at the beginning of 2000. These planes seat 265 passengers and are to be used for international flights.

In addition, the company is to carry out two new leasing deals. It is to buy two Boeing 767-200ERs from Air France for $43m. each and lease the aircraft to El Al for five years. Arkia is to make a down payment of $13.5m. for each plane and the aircraft are to be delivered in January and March 1999.

In the second deal, Arkia is to buy a Boeing 757-200ER for $36m. and lease it to an unnamed foreign airline until 2003 for $370,000 a month.

This is in addition to the 24 aircraft Arkia is presently leasing to other airlines.

Arkia is setting up a domestic airline in Nigeria together with Koor subsidiary Belton-Dizengoff and a Nigerian company. Arkia and Belton-Dizengoff each are to own 30 percent of the company and the Nigerian partner is to hold 40%, with an initial overall investment of $2.5m.

Arkia is to lease two or three of its Dash 7 aircraft, now being used in Israel, to the new company. Borovich noted that the planes are to be insured for their full value, with the insurance also covering possible political incidents. The aircraft are to be flown by local pilots, under the direction of Arkia.

Borovich said that the expansion plans are the result of an optimistic view of the development of the airline industry, including traffic to Israel by visitors from abroad.

"There will be an increase in foreign tourism for the year 2000, which will last much longer than that year. I see a very rosy future," Borovich said.

Bell Atlantic and GTE discuss merger

By ANDREW BROOKS and DYLAN RATIGAN

Bell Atlantic Corp., the largest US local phone company, and GTE Corp. held talks about a merger valued at about $55 billion that would give the companies control of a third of the US local service market, said a source familiar with the discussions.

An agreement could come as soon as this week, though the talks may still break down, the source said. Bell Atlantic president and CEO Ivan Seidenberg declined to comment, as did officials at GTE, the No. 3 local company.

Shares of Bell Atlantic rose 7/16 to 45 5/8 in early trading. GTE fell 3/4 to 57 3/16.

The combined company, with about $53.5 billion in annual sales and 63 million phone lines, would be a stronger competitor to SBC Communications Inc., the No. 2 local phone company, which recently agreed to buy Ameritech Corp. for $70.3 billion. The global phone industry is consolidating at an unprecedented pace as markets open to competition and companies seek to offer a full range of services through one bill.

"We're seeing a battle of Titans," said Jeffrey Kagan, president of market researcher Kagan Telecom Associates. "The companies all feel like they've got to get bigger."

The combination, first reported by *The Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*, is sure to draw close scrutiny from US regulators. Bell Atlantic and GTE have extensive and overlapping local and wireless operations. Bell Atlantic is prohibited from providing long-distance services, while GTE has more than 2 million long-distance customers.

"These are two companies that would have probably gone head-to-head against each other," Kagan said.

Bell Atlantic, which last year bought Nynex Corp. for $25.6 billion to get a lock on the local market in 13 states from Maine to Virginia, is facing increased competition from long-distance providers in its lucrative northeastern US market.

SBC is making a push there as well. It expects this year to complete its $5.97 billion purchase of Southern New England Telecommunications Corp., which provides local and long-distance services in Connecticut.

GTE, which provides local services in 28 states, last fall lost out to WorldCom Inc. to buy MCI Communications Corp., the No. 2 US long-distance company. GTE bid $33.5 billion, while WorldCom sweetened its offer to $41.8 billion.

Stamford, Connecticut-based GTE has been moving quickly to push into the fast-growing data market. Last year, it paid $616 million for Internet service provider BBN Corp., a pioneer in the industry, connecting companies to the global computer network.

At the same time, it bought part of Qwest Communications International Inc.'s 16,285-mile long-distance network, expected to be completed next year.

Other competitors are teaming up as well. WorldCom expects this summer to complete its MCI purchase, and yesterday AT&T Corp., the largest US long-distance company, and British Telecommunications Plc announced a $3 billion venture to offer voice, data and Internet services to large global companies.

(Bloomberg)

Government delegation to learn Euro ropes

By DAN GERSTENFELD and DAVID HARRIS

A team of top civil servants will travel in early September to Brussels to study the implications for Israel of the introduction of European monetary union, Treasury Deputy Director-General for International Affairs Dan Catarivas said yesterday.

The group, which will include representatives of the Finance Ministry, Bank of Israel, Export Institute, and the Israel Securities Authority, will meet senior European officials from DG2, which is responsible for many of the European Union's financial affairs.

Catarivas, who will head the team, said the government's key role is to raise preparedness in the business community for the onset of the euro-currency, which will begin to come on stream on January 1. While funding has not yet been set aside for the purpose, Catarivas said his ministry will soon begin a publicity campaign aimed at getting the European message across.

However, unlike the Eurofile Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, Catarivas said Israel should not link itself directly to the European currency bloc. "at least not for the time being."

Frenkel is urging Israel to become closely aligned to the Euro bloc, rather than those of the dollar or yen. Frenkel maintains this is the logical step for Israel, whose largest trading partner is the EU, geographically the closest to the Middle East of the three major blocs.

Catarivas added that the domestic business sector is far from ready for the introduction of the euro. "Unfortunately there's not enough medium- and long-term preparation for the launching of the euro," said Catarivas. The first sector that must be ready for the euro is tourism, he said. By next summer, the industry will have top begin marketing euro-denominated holiday packages for Christmas and the 2000 celebrations.

While most of the business sector may not yet be ready, the five major banks have been preparing for this process for the last two years, said the Treasury's West European affairs coordinator, Marc Luban.

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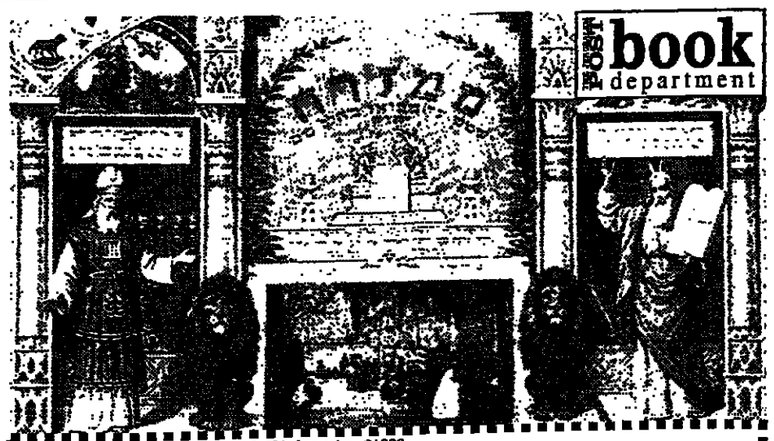

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Building Blocks
By Nina Gilbert

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

■ Industrial Buildings, the country's largest real-estate company, is to establish a $200 million office-building complex in the Herzliya Pituah industrial zone. The project, Ackerstein Towers, will become the largest complex in the area. It will consist of four, nine- to 10-story buildings of office and high-tech industrial space. The buildings are to be constructed on a 24-dunam area. The land was owned by Ackerstein Industries, which signed a deal for a joint-venture of the project with Industrial Buildings two years ago. A Hypercol branch is presently located on part of the site and will move into a 3,000-sq.m. space in the new complex.

The complex will include 40,000 sq.m. of office space and 10,000 sq.m. of commercial space, which is to be accessible via a pedestrian walkway between the buildings. The space will be available for rental only. The project is to be built in two stages. The first stage will consist of two buildings and part of the commercial space, which will take about two years to complete.

■ Benco Modular Concepts has won two contracts worth NIS 8 million to supply space dividers for the new offices of Bank Hapoalim and Blue Square Co-op. Bank Hapoalim is establishing its new headquarters in Rubinstein Towers in Tel Aviv, on Rehov Harakevet. Benco is to set up dividers in some 10,000 sq.m. of space on 12 floors of the building, for some NIS 5m. Bank Hapoalim is scheduled to move into the new offices next summer. Blue Square Co-op awarded Benco a NIS 3m. contract for dividers in its new offices being constructed in Rosh Ha'ayin.

■ GNC, the US-based vitamin and health food chain, has rented a 150-sq.m. space in Azrieli Center in Tel Aviv for its third branch in the country. The chain rented the space for $65 per sq.m. for 10 years, linked to the consumer price index. Some $300,000 was invested in the store. The chain has some 3,600 stores worldwide with annual revenues of $1.2 billion.

RESIDENTIAL
Jerusalem area

■ Twenty-five homes were sold during the pre-sale of the first phase of a new project in Mitzpe Nevo, a religious neighborhood in Ma'aleh Adumim. The company, A. Barkan & Co., is now opening the project, Ma'aleh Hatzofim, for regular sales and plans to begin sales of the second phase soon. Ninety terraced units, including cottages and apartments, are to be built in the project. Apartments will contain five rooms and cottages and garden apartments five to six rooms. Prices of the homes range from $185,000 to $265,000.

■ On Rehov Harav Berlin, a three-room apartment with a small, private garden was sold for $245,000 via Shiran. The home, which has some 70 sq.m., was sold after six weeks on the market. In Gilo, on Rehov Hagoma, a four-room 100-sq.m. apartment on the third floor was sold for $185,000. The apartment was sold after a week on the market via Shiran.

Tel Aviv and center

■ Mishab, the building company that specializes in projects for the religious public, has sold 10 houses in the past month in Mishkanot Afek in Rosh Ha'ayin for some $2.7m. The project, being built at a cost of some $15m., is spread over a 21-dunam area and includes 69 single-family homes. Prices start from $240,000 for five-room, 144-sq.m. homes with 100-sq.m. gardens and from $275,000 for six-room, 165-sq.m. homes with 150-sq.m. gardens. The company said buyers in the project are divided equally among residents from Jerusalem and center of the country.

■ In Tel Aviv, a three-room 85-sqm. apartment on Rehov Hakerem near the sea was sold for $260,000 via Century 21. The apartment, which needs renovations, is on the first floor, but has no parking. The asking price was $260,000.

■ Near Kikar Hamedina, a two-room 55-sq.m. apartment was sold by the agency on Rehov Sharett for $190,000. The apartment is renovated, but is on the second floor without an elevator or parking. The asking price was $210,000.

■ In Shoham, a five-room attached cottage on Rehov Nurit was sold for $295,000 via Anglo-Saxon. The house has 160 sq.m. of space and a 100-sq.m. garden.

■ On Rehov Emek Ayalon, a six-room penthouse with a view was sold for $285,000. The house has 170 sq.m. of space with a 60-sq.m. porch.

When push comes to shove

While push-technology companies in the Internet field have run into trouble, local start-up BackWeb is flourishing by focusing its attention on the corporate environment

The Start-Up

By Nicky Blackburn

When Lior Hass, co-founder and chief architect of start-up BackWeb Technologies, talks about "The Press," you can almost hear him growl.

It's not that Hass has got anything against the media personally. It's just that it has played a part in tarnishing the image of the push-technology industry, which has made his job a good deal harder.

BackWeb is one of the leading lights of the push-technology market. Just over a year ago that was something to be proud of. When push burst onto the scene it was hailed as one of the most exciting new technologies, the cure for all that ails the Internet. Six months on, however, as problems began to emerge in certain sectors of the industry, journalists rushed in to pronounce the entire technology dead.

"There was lots of hype at the beginning and lots of hype at the end," complains Hass.

The truth is that push technology is far from its death bed. In fact, for companies like BackWeb, it's not even ill.

In the last year BackWeb, which has headquarters in California and Ramat Gan, has increased its staff to 140, opened offices across Europe, and signed new five- to six-figure deals with leading Fortune 1000 companies such as Compaq, Intel, Network Associates (formerly McAfee), and Cisco. In December 1996, the company's market value was estimated at $60 million and since then sales have continued to grow at a healthy rate.

"We're doing very well," says Hass. "We're in good shape, have plenty of money in the bank and our investors are happy."

BACKWEB'S story began in November 1995 when it was founded by BRM Technologies with seed capital of $1.5m. and a staff of seven. It was a fortuitous start. BRM had a major hand in the success of Checkpoint Software Technologies Ltd., the market leader in global network security software and a company which in six years has grown larger than Koor.

Initially product development was carried out by BRM personnel and for the first six months, BackWeb worked out of BRM's Jerusalem offices.

After just two months, Eli Barkat, CEO of BackWeb and one of BRM's three owners, moved to the US where he set up the company's American operations.

In mid 1996, Softbank Holdings Inc., which owns the largest high-tech publishing house in the world, invested $3m. in BackWeb, while in December 1996 another $13m. was raised in a second round of private financing. The lead investor was GS Capital Partners II, an affiliate of the Goldman Sachs Group. Other investors included Trinity Ventures, Intel, Polaris and Evergreen. Even before BackWeb officially released the first version of its product in September 1996, it had several customers, the first being the *Wall Street Journal*.

In the following months, BackWeb's customer base increased steadily.

Contracts followed with Lotus, McAfee, Diamond Multimedia, Expert Software and Microsoft.

In 1997, BackWeb bought a Toronto-based competitor, Lanacom, and turned it into an R&D office.

Initially BackWeb aimed at both the consumer (Internet) and corporate (Intranet) markets, but 18 months ago it made a strategic decision to focus attention on the corporate environment. Today BackWeb's customers are almost exclusively from the corporate world.

"It may be less sexy than the Internet, but we realized that the corporate world is where the money lies," says Hass. "The average deal is significantly higher in terms of income. It's a different customer and a different sale. Corporations have a huge demand for technology that allows them to transfer information to their employees. They can't put information on an internal Web site and wait for people to come to them because they just don't come. They need to send the information to them."

It proved to be a wise decision. By the end of last summer it was clear that push-technology companies in the Internet field were running into trouble. Customers complained that systems were too slow, took too long to download and were too passive.

Much of this criticism, according to Hass, was specifically about Pointcast, the company which pioneered the technology and which then focused almost exclusively on the consumer market. It was not alone, however. Netscape and Microsoft had also tried to penetrate the consumer market with similarly disappointing results.

For the media, which had been loudly enthusing about the technology, the complaints spelled a rapid change in direction. "The press had hyped up push technology so much that when these companies didn't take off in the way they were expected to, there was a backlash, and the journalists assumed it was the end of push technology. It became 'in' to write that push is dead," says Hass.

What they ignored, however, says Hass, was that it was only one area of push technology that was suffering. In the corporate world, the market was developing as rapidly as before.

"What the media really gets is the Internet," explains Hass. "Journalists are writing for a mass market. Their readers understand the Internet because many of them are home users. When they see an Internet technology, they think in terms of the end user. The company Mirablis, for example, is all about home users. Everyone understands it. It's simple. Everyone and their mothers are using it. Once we made the shift to the corporate world everyone lost interest."

While it's impossible to say with any certainty how much the negative reports have affected BackWeb, Hass does believe that it has caused hesitation in his customers.

"The wave of negative press about the push market is not helping us," he says. "If someone is buying a product for a quarter of a million dollars, they want to know that the company is going to be there next year. If you're a start-up like us, it's not a given. We have to prove that we're here to stay. I think we're doing quite a good job of that. Once we are talking to our customers it's easy because we can show them the difference between what the press is talking about and what we are doing.

"I don't think we've lost any deal because of the press," he adds.

One positive outcome of all this trouble is that today BackWeb is the clear market leader. "We have almost no competition," says Hass. "In the corporate environment, we are absolutely the leader. There is no one close to us right now. Microsoft and Netscape have pulled the plug on push, and Pointcast has become a media company. We don't see them anywhere in our territory. This is one area where we did really great."

Today BackWeb's only real competition comes from companies who develop their own home-made solutions to distribute information.

A year ago, analysts predicted that the push technology market would reach $4.5 billion by the year 2000. Today those predictions vary considerably depending on the analyst. Hass, however, still believes that it will become a multi-billion dollar market. "We're absolutely sure that it's going to be a huge market," he says. "There's a really strong demand for push technology in the corporate environment."

As market leader, that could spell out a lot of revenues for BackWeb.

In the meantime, there's a lot of work still to be done. "It's not obvious to all *Fortune* 1000 companies that they need BackWeb. We have to make them realize that. It's really the role of the market leader to create and educate the market. That's one of our biggest challenges today, and we are investing a lot of resources in it."

Despite all the difficulties over the last year, Hass remains optimistic that the company's strong growth rate will continue, along with the expansion of the market. "The market is still very young and you usually see phenomenal growth rates at the start because there's so much room to grow."

In the next week or so, BackWeb expects to announce the completion of several major deals worth between $200,000 to $500,000 with leaders in the oil and gas, pharmaceutical, and distribution fields.

At the height of the push technology fiesta, it was fashionable to describe BackWeb as the new Checkpoint. Hass still likes that comparison. "We actually think we're going to be larger than Checkpoint," he says.

He can't let this go without some qualification, however. "Nothing is a given," he adds quickly. "We can still fall on our face. But we're optimists."

So what does BackWeb Do?

BackWeb's product is a software platform that enables companies to build their own broadcast channels and download information directly to a user's desktop during idle on-line time. The system cuts out the Web's lengthy waiting times and also allows the user to continue working without interference since it works in the background and does not affect performance.

Rather than charging end users or using advertisements to make money, BackWeb sells its technology directly to companies or corporations that want to build their own channels.

One of the strengths of the product is that it can send not only written or graphic information, but also software and data. Network Associates, the world's leading anti-virus software company which supports more than three million users, has a BackWeb channel to send out anti-virus software automatically.

Compaq has preinstalled a BackWeb channel on a line of portable computers so that it can automatically send upgrades before problems arise. The company believes this will lower the amount of text-support calls it receives.

Other customers include Lanacom, HP, 3Com, Cisco and Intel. – *N.B.*

A Formula for publicity?

A controversial 'sell' recommendation for Israel's leading software house has created a media stir in which critics are calling into question the motives of two audacious analysts

MARKET WATCH
By Dan Gentleman



Being an analyst seems to be the perfect job for a Jewish man or woman: You get paid for telling other people what you think.

In fact, the salary is good, and if you happen to be right, you'll get complimented as well. And if you suspect that you are on the wrong track you can always look for a reasonable excuse and rush to downgrade your estimates. If God forbid you're wrong, the company can always be blamed for supplying misleading information.

Last week when two Israelis found their names splashed across the front pages of the business supplements of all the Hebrew dailies, it became clear that being an analyst can also bring overnight fame.

It all started when Doron Tsur and Avner Ben-Yeshaya at Sahar Securities decided to issue a controversial "sell" recommendation to Formula Systems, a favorite stock among investors, saying that shares of the software house are traded at a price which is some 20 percent higher than their real value.

Rarely does an analyst decide to issue a "sell" recommendation and even less frequently does he initiate new coverage with such a recommendation.

The negative assessment of Formula was even more surprising considering that Israel's largest software house has always enjoyed favorable coverage from foreign and local investment institutions.

The company, which employs 1,200 workers and had last year a net income of NIS 68 million on sales NIS 540m., is currently covered by analysts from 11 investment houses. Besides Ofek Securities, Zannex Securities and Solid Capital Markets, all Israeli, the impressive list includes foreign houses such as BancAmerica Robertson Stephens, Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, Robert Fleming, CIBC Oppenheimer, Natwest Securities and Barclays Capital Group. All but Sahar are highly recommending Formula's share.

The consensus among these analysts can partly explain the meteoric rise of Formula's shares, which have surged some 300 percent on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange since the beginning of 1997. The sharp rise and the company's strategy of acquiring other software companies and issuing a large number of subsidiaries abroad established Formula's position as the local version of Microsoft.

Tsur and Ben-Yeshaya were well aware their report would contradict the opinions of the entire group of analysts covering local stocks. Apparently, the two decided that confronting the views of the entire analyst community was not enough; they also questioned the sanity of Wall Street, where Formula's ADRs are traded.

The report opens with the words "It's not every day that the research department of a brokerage firm in Tel Aviv disputes the price levels of Wall Street – the largest and most efficient market in the world. Nevertheless, we still maintain that at any given moment, share prices should reflect the present value of a company's profits and its cash flows.... Consequently, determining that a company trading at a future P/E ratio of 35 and 7 times annual sales is 'inexpensive' only because similar companies are trading at P/E ratios of 50 and at 10 times their annual turnovers, is unacceptable to us. At best, we can define it as being less expensive than others, which are traded at very high prices."

THE unique "sell" recommendation caught investors and traders by surprise, and Formula's stock dropped 3.3% on the following day. Danny Goldstein, Formula's chairman and main stock holder, rushed to defend his company.

In an interview published on the same day in the financial daily *Globes*, Goldstein accused Tsur and Ben-Yeshaya of using his company's name to garner media attention. While admitting that the two have done a professional job, Goldstein claimed they reached the wrong conclusion.

"I think that the game was fixed," he said. "They were looking for a gimmick. They shot an arrow, and drew the target around it afterwards. It's a little bit odd to say that there are American idiots who don't understand a thing about real prices, while there is an Israeli who knows how to price software companies."

Goldstein was not the only one to reject Sahar's conclusion. The following day, Ofek Securities hurried to renew its "strong buy" recommendation for the share. The analysis referred directly to the various points presented in Sahar's work and explained why the conclusion should have been exactly the opposite.

It took only one more day for BancAmerica Robertson Stephens expert Victor Halpert, a veteran foreign analyst who covers Israeli stocks, to pick up the gauntlet. Halpert, who worked until recently for Salomon Smith Barney, announced that he maintains his "buy" recommendation for the company, and set a target price which is some 50% higher than Formula's market price.

The struggle between analysts did not fail to catch the media's eye, which gave the whole affair extensive coverage. Tsur, who heads the research department at Sahar, admits that when he published the analysis he expected a strong reaction, but even he was surprised by its extent.

"I could not predict such turmoil. They turned it into an issue," he said. "I gave my opinion and others can give theirs. The reaction was simply exaggerated."

Tsur, who is considered to be one of the leading local analysts, said that he is not angry at Goldstein's reaction. "Formula is working hard to maintain its relations with investors and analysts," Tsur said. "I can praise Goldstein for the fact that he took us seriously and said that we studied the material."

Tsur added that his lack of experience covering software companies did not hurt the report. He said he spent more than two months working on it and feels comfortable with the outcome.

Asked if he thinks he is at a disadvantage when competing with foreign analysts who know the field better, Tsur said he believes that as an Israeli he has a unique advantage. "Every Israeli in their early thirties with an academic degree has friends and relatives in the software industry who can provide information and give a different insight. And when you say software in Israel you say Formula."

Tsur also refutes accusations that he wrote the report to gain publicity and says he had no idea what his conclusion would be when he started working. "I was not interested in starting a fury. But I don't think that the fear of noise and discomfort should prevent me from stating my opinion to clients."

Only time will tell who was right in this case, but the whole affair has definitely created confusion for investors. After all, they are the ones who stand to gain or lose from Formula's performance.

The Conference Circuit
By Greer Fay Cashman

28.7 3Com is hosting a morning conference at the Daniel Hotel, Herzliya, where it will launch and demonstrate its **Remote Access series.** The new series enables access and work capability from almost anywhere outside the office. Alessandra Cimatti, who heads 3Com's business development division in Europe, will present a product overview and talk about the value of this new concept in Internet/Intranet access.

28.7 President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and Opposition Leader Ehud Barak will be among the speakers at the **18th Convention of the General Federation of Labor (Histadrut),** which will open at 8 a.m. at the Jerusalem International Convention Center. Netanyahu may find some difficulty in entering the building since the peace camp has organized a mass demonstration outside to coincide with his arrival.

28.7 **Innovations in Energy: Business Opportunities for Industry and the Construction Sector** is the title of a seminar organized by ISERD in conjunction with Tel Aviv University's Center for Technological Projections, the Israel Center for Liaison with the European Union's Research and Development Plans, the Manufacturers Association and the Neeman Institute at the Technion. The purpose of the seminar is to demonstrate the potential of energy-powered advanced technology in industry in general and the construction industry in particular. The day-long event opens at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, Tel Aviv, at 8.30 a.m.

4.8 **The annual general meeting for shareholders in Leumi Mortgage Bank** will take place at the bank's registered offices, 31-37 Montefiore Street, Tel Aviv, at 11 a.m. On the agenda are the adoption of reports by the bank's director, comptrollers and finance department; the election of a new board of directors; approval of remuneration for those directors; and the appointment of a comptroller.

6.8 **The annual general meetings of shareholders in Africa Israel Hotels Ltd., Tiberias Hot Springs Ltd. and Jordan Hotels Ltd.** will take place at the Africa Israel Headquarters, 13 Ahad Ha'am Street, Tel Aviv, commencing at 9.30 a.m. Agendas for all three meetings include receipt and adoption of the directors' and financial reports, the appointment of new directors and comptrollers, and approval of their terms of employment and remuneration.

10.8 **The annual general meeting of BATM Advanced Communications Ltd.** will be held at the offices of Fladgate Fielder, Heron Place, 3 George Street, London, at 9 a.m. Shareholders in the company will be asked to reelect the current board of the company and reappoint CEO Dr. Zvi Marom as well as six other senior executives.

26.8 Avi Rosenthal, director-general of the Israel Hotel Association, will chair a study day on **Israel as a Center for World Tourism in the Year 2000.** Participants will hear about the government's and the municipalities' preparations for the anticipated upsurge in tourism to Nazareth and Jerusalem. Rosenthal will also take part in a panel discussion on new business opportunities which may arise as a result of the marked increase in tourism. The day-long event at the Jerusalem Hilton will conclude with an address by Tourism Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Katsav.

16.9 A conference on **Internet Marketing** will be held within the framework of Infotech98 at Gan Oranim. The conference, which begins at 8.30 a.m., will review marketing for the Internet today as well as projections for the future. It will also analyze current and potential Internet clientele and offer strategies for marketing, sales and public relations via the Internet.

هكذا من الأصل

ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD

AMEX

	LAST	CHANGE*
Am Israel Paper Mills	36.375	-0.875
Arpad Ashkenazi Israel	5.375	-0.1875
A.L.G. Associates	2.625	-0
Alscan	15.875	-0.0625
Amot	1.5	-0
Ank / Ankarcrom Ltd	.33	-0.25
Bank Hapoalim Ltd	5.6875	-0.1875
Bio Technology General	7.375	-0.0625
Bio Technology Israel	2.1875	-0.0625
Chemicon	2.96875	+0.09375
Compugen Technology	4.25	-0.125
Crystal Systems Solutions	12.4375	-0.25
D.S.P.C. Group	4.25	-0.375
Dan Hotels Corp	30.875	-0.875
Data Systems Software	4.375	-0.1875
Ecl Telecom	30.875	-0.0625
Elbit Ltd	5.125	-0.0625
Elbit Medical Imaging	23.5938	-0.0625
Elron Electronics	16	-0
Elscint Ltd	8.875	-0.1875
Eltek Global Industry	13.125	-0.25
Eltek Global Ltd	4.75	-0.1875
Elul Telecom	1.5	-0.0625
Gilat Satellite Networks	36.5	-0.5
Given Imaging	3.40625	-0.125
Hadasit Bio-Holdings	1.1875	-0.0625
Hana Corp	19.5	-1
Hanover Ltd	2.75	-0.25
Ituran Location & Control	7.75	-0.125
Jacada Ltd	18.5	-0.5
Koor Industries Ltd	36.375	-0.375
Lanet Ltd	1.5	-0.0625
Lapidoth Capital	1.1875	-0.0625
Magal Security Systems	4.1875	-0.0313
Magic Software	4.1875	-0.0625
Matrix	30.875	-0.125
Mer Telemanagement	13.875	-0
Mind C.T.I.	1.46875	-0.0625
Nur Communications	1.5	-0.0625
Nur Macroprinters	3.375	-0.1875
Nur Technology	2.75	-0.25
Opti Systems Solutions	30.875	-0.125
Orbit	14.5	-0.75
Orbotech	30.875	-0.375
Pharmos	2.46875	-0.0625
Precise Software Technologies	7.1875	-0.0625
Radcom Ltd	1.46875	-0.0625
RADVision Ltd	4.125	-0.375
RDC Communications	4.75	-0.1875
Retalix Ltd	4.125	-0.375
Scitex Corporation	30.875	-0.125
Sela Semiconductors	2.75	-0.1875
Shamir Optical	13.625	-0.375
Siganet Ltd	2.5	-0.0625
Tadiran Telecom	15.875	-0.125
Tecnomatix Technologies	16.875	-0.0625
Teva Pharmaceutical Ind	5.875	+0.0313
Top Image Systems	3.6875	-0.0625
Tadiran Communications	3	-0.0625
TTI Team Telecom Int'l Ltd	10.4375	-0
VCON Telecom	1.46875	-0.0625
Wavetec Solutions	12.375	-0.125
Web Gain Systems	14.125	-0.375
Zoran Corporation	30.875	-0.375

NASDAQ

	LAST	CHANGE*
ACS Electronics Ltd	3.56	-0.375
Advanced Software	0.4063	-0
A.L.G. Associates	2.563	-0
Alscan	15.875	-0.063
Amot	1.5	-0
Ank / Ankarcrom Ltd	.33	-0.25
Bank Hapoalim Ltd	5.6875	-0.1875
Bio Technology General	7.375	-0.0625
Bio Technology Israel	2.1875	-0.0625
Chemicon	2.96875	+0.09375
Compugen Technology	4.25	-0.125
Crystal Systems Solutions	12.4375	-0.25
D.S.P.C. Group	4.25	-0.375
Dan Hotels Corp	30.875	-0.875
Data Systems Software	4.375	-0.1875
Ecl Telecom	30.875	-0.063
Elbit Ltd	5.125	-0.063
Elbit Medical Imaging	23.5938	-0.063
Elron Electronics	16	-0
Elscint Ltd	8.875	-0.188
Eltek Global Industry	13.125	-0.25
Eltek Global Ltd	4.75	-0.188
Elul Telecom	1.5	-0.063
Gilat Satellite Networks	36.5	-0.5
Given Imaging	3.40625	-0.125
Hadasit Bio-Holdings	1.1875	-0.063
Hana Corp	19.5	-1
Hanover Ltd	2.75	-0.25
Ituran Location & Control	7.75	-0.125
Jacada Ltd	18.5	-0.5
Koor Industries Ltd	36.375	-0.375
Lanet Ltd	1.5	-0.063
Lapidoth Capital	1.1875	-0.063
Magal Security Systems	4.1875	-0.031
Magic Software	4.1875	-0.063
Matrix	30.875	-0.125
Mer Telemanagement	13.875	-0
Mind C.T.I.	1.46875	-0.063
Nur Communications	1.5	-0.063
Nur Macroprinters	3.375	-0.188
Nur Technology	2.75	-0.25
Opti Systems Solutions	30.875	-0.125
Orbit	14.5	-0.75
Orbotech	30.875	-0.375
Pharmos	2.46875	-0.063
Precise Software Technologies	7.1875	-0.063
Radcom Ltd	1.46875	-0.063
RADVision Ltd	4.125	-0.375
RDC Communications	4.75	-0.188
Retalix Ltd	4.125	-0.375
Scitex Corporation	30.875	-0.125
Sela Semiconductors	2.75	-0.188
Shamir Optical	13.625	-0.375
Siganet Ltd	2.5	-0.063
Tadiran Telecom	15.875	-0.125
Tecnomatix Technologies	16.875	-0.063
Teva Pharmaceutical Ind	5.875	+0.031
Top Image Systems	3.6875	-0.063
Tadiran Communications	3	-0.063
TTI Team Telecom Int'l Ltd	10.4375	-0
VCON Telecom	1.46875	-0.063
Wavetec Solutions	12.375	-0.125
Web Gain Systems	14.125	-0.375
Zoran Corporation	30.875	-0.375

*Change is from previous day's (Rates in effect until 12/31/98)

LONDON

	LAST	CHANGE*
Bank Hapoalim	187.5	+2.5
Discount Ltd	253.5	+0
Elbit Ltd	29.5	+0.5
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	-0
SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK	[DATE 27-JUL-98]	

NYSE

	LAST	CHANGE*
Amcast	12.3	-0.8875
Blue Square	15.375	-0.125
Discount Investment	15.875	-0.0625
Elscint	8.625	-0.125
Fibronics Ltd	4.25	-0.0625
Fisher Israel Fund	14.1875	-0.0625
Fisher Communications Corp	14.1875	-0.0625
Gilat	36.125	-0.125
Israel Tech Fund	10.5	-0.0625
Scitex Corp Ltd	30.875	-0.375
Tadiran Ltd	15.875	-0.125
Telrad	27	-0.375
SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK	[DATE 27-JUL-98]	

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

	LAST	CHANGE*
Adr	39.0625	-0.1875
Adr Pcl	29.25	-0.1875
Adr	19.5	-0.1875
Adr	17.25	-0.1875
Advanced Micro	14.3125	-0.0625
Advanced Micro	14.3125	-0.0625
Alcatel Fhd	74.3	+1.25
Alcatel Alsthom	74.3	+1.25
Amerindo (Hf)	71.625	+0.0938
Amerindo (Hf)	1	-0.0313
Abn/Pn Cert B	27.875	-0.375
Abn/Pn Cert B	1	-0
Abercrom's	76.1875	+0.9375
Abercrom's	76.1875	+0.9375
Abn Sanpaolo	43.563	+0.5
Acesa Infraestructuras	43.563	+0.5
Acesa	70.1875	+0.9375
Acesa	70.1875	+0.9375
Aventis Hea	51.8125	-0.25
Aventis Hea	51.8125	-0.25
Aviva Plc	23.8125	+0.6875
Aviva Plc	23.8125	+0.6875
Axa Equities	112.813	+3.75
Axa Equities	112.813	+3.75
Axel Gold Corp	70.0625	+0.9375
Axel Gold	1	-0
Axel Home Pf	52.25	+0.9375
Axel Intl	15.938	+0.3125
Axel Intl	15.938	+0.3125
Axel Spring	25.875	+0.3125
Axel Spring	25.875	+0.3125
Axel Telecom Corp	29.125	+0.8125
Axel Wstd Hldg	25.5625	+0.3125
Axel Wstd Hldg	25.5625	+0.3125
Axmetrics	31.625	+0.125
Axmetrics Inc	25.5625	+0.3125

TEL AVIV 100

	LAST	CHANGE*
Alon Israel Oil	26500	-50
Alon Israel 01	167000	-0
Africa Israel	14100	-0
Azrieli	29900	-0
Amot	8211	-0
Bank Hapoalim	5.6875	-0.1875
Bezeq	21000	-0
Bezeq 2	21000	-0
Bio Tech	7.375	-0.0625
Blue Square	15.375	-0.125
Check Point	2.46875	-0.0625
Clal Industries	36.875	-0.125
Clal Insurance	36.875	-0.125
Clal Investments	36.875	-0.125
Clal Financial	36.875	-0.125
Clal Gold	36.875	-0.125
Clal Holdings	36.875	-0.125
Clal Industries	36.875	-0.125
Clal Insurance	36.875	-0.125
Clal Investments	36.875	-0.125
Clal Financial	36.875	-0.125
Clal Gold	36.875	-0.125
Clal Holdings	36.875	-0.125
Comverse Tech	36.875	-0.125
Dan Hotels	30.875	-0.875
Delek Group	36.875	-0.125
Discount Bank	36.875	-0.125
Discount Investments	36.875	-0.125
Elbit	5.125	-0.063
Elbit Medical	23.5938	-0.063
Elbit Vision Systems	1.5	-0.063
Elron Electronics	16	-0
Elscint	8.875	-0.188
Formula Systems (1985)	34.75	-0.5
Formula Vision	16.5	-0.5
Gilat	36.125	-0.125
Given Imaging	3.40625	-0.125
Hadasit Bio-Holdings	1.1875	-0.063
Harel Insurance	36.875	-0.125
Harel Investments	36.875	-0.125
Harel Mishmar 1	36.875	-0.125
Harel Mishmar 2	36.875	-0.125
I.D.B. Holdings	36.875	-0.125
I.D.B. Dev	36.875	-0.125
Industrial Buildings	36.875	-0.125
Israel Chemicals	36.875	-0.125
Israel Corp	36.875	-0.125
Israel Discount Bank	36.875	-0.125
Jerusalem Hotels	36.875	-0.125
Koor Industries	36.375	-0.375
Lapidoth Capital	1.1875	-0.063
Lev Leviev	36.875	-0.125
Magic Software	4.1875	-0.063
Matrix	30.875	-0.125
Mer Telemanagement	13.875	-0
Migdal Insurance	36.875	-0.125
Migdal Investments	36.875	-0.125
Migdal Holdings	36.875	-0.125
Migdal Industries	36.875	-0.125

	LAST	CHANGE*
Temple Inland	52.375	+0.875
Tenneco	38.125	+0.4375
Tenet Health	29.8125	-0.5
Teradyne	23.9375	-0.375
Tesoro Pet	16.125	-0.3125
Texaco	60.7125	+0.2125
Texas Instrmnts	57.8125	-0.25
Texas Utilities	40.8125	-0.3125
Textron	74.25	+1.4375
Thiokol	-	-
Thomas & Betts	43.4375	+0.25
ThreeCom	25	-0.9375
Time Warner	93.875	-1.5625
Times-Mirror	61.625	-1.0625
Timken	23.875	+0
Torchmark	44.5	+0.1875
Tosco Corp	28.8125	-0.25
Toys R Us	23.1875	+0.6875
Transamerica	118.25	+1.5
Transco Energy	67.5875	-0.3125
Travellers Grp	67.625	+1.125
Tribune	68.5625	-0.375
Triton Energy	17.5625	+0.25
TWA	8.75	-0.1875
Tyco Intl Ltd	66.1875	+0.125
Tyler	9.5	-0.1875
-		
UAL Corp	79.75	+1.6875
USG Corp	55.6875	-0.625
UST Inc	26.375	-0.25
USX Marathon	34.8125	-0.375
USX-US Steel	28.625	+0.9375
Ultramar Diam	27.25	+0
Unicom Corp	35.5625	+0.375
Unilever PLC	42.6875	-1.25
Unilever NV	77.5	-1.6875
Union Camp	41.625	-0.5
Union Carbide	48.875	-2.125
Union Pacific	41.0625	+0.6875
Unisys Corp	38	+0.25
USAIR Group	75.0625	+0.625
USF&G Corp	-	-
US Home	39.25	-0.75
US Surgical	48.4063	+0.125
US Trust	79.5	-0.375
US West	53.9875	+0.25
United Tech	97.3125	+2.625
Unocal Corp	32.875	-0.4375
-		
VF Corp	48.0625	+0.8125
VMRX Pharmaceut	1	+0
Valero Energy	25.3125	-1.125
Varian Assoc	33.5625	-1.125
Viacom Inc	67.5	+1.5625
Vishay	13.375	-0.625
Vulcan Materials	116.375	-0.5625
-		
Wachovia	83.5	-0.75
Walgreen	45.5625	-0.125
Wal-Mart Stores	63.875	+0.0625
Warner-Lambert	82.625	+2.75
Wash Gas Light	34.25	-0.3125
Washington Mutu	43.9625	+0
Washington Post	570.375	-2.1875
Waste Mgmnt Inc	-	-
Watkins-Johnson	22.875	-1.0625
Wells Markets	34.9375	-1
Wells Fargo	370	+8
Wendy's Intl	22.75	+0.125
Westvaco	25.6875	+0.1875
Weyerhaeuser	44.1875	+0.9375
Whirlpool	61.5	+0.625
Whitman	23.3125	+0.375
Williams Co	34.25	-0.125
Winn Dixie Stos	46.125	+0.0625
Woolworth	15.5625	-0.25
World Comm	59.0625	-0.8125
Worthington Ind	14.2813	+0.03125
Wrigley	95.5625	-0.75
-		
Xerox	111	+1.9375
-		
Yellow Freight	17.0625	-0.28125
-		
Zenith Electron	-	-
Zero Co	23	-1

LONDON

Allied Domecq	578	+0.5
BAT Inds	685.5	-5.5
BT	868	+4.4
BTR	149.5	-2.75
Barclays	1762	-29
Bass	1034	+17
Boots	1037	+8
British Airways	623.5	-13.5
Comm Union plc	1148	+16
Diageo	729	-4
General Electric	501	-1
Glaxo	1700	-78
Hanson	743.5	-11
HSBC (75p shs)	1511	-24
ICI	710	-24
Land Securities	852	-12.5
Lloyds Bank	846	-18.5
Marks & Spencer	511	-14.5
NatWest Bank	1154	-14
Prudential	845	-3.5
Reuters	620	-3
Sainsbury	538	-5.5
Shell Transport	335.5	+0
Tyco Intl	4000	+50
Unilever	535.5	-13
Zeneca	2328	-68

PARIS

Accor	1594	-10
Air Liquide	816	-22
Alcatel Alsthom	1265	-35
Euro Disney	10.9	-0.2
Moulinex	137	-2.9
Pernbas	651	+0
Pernod Ricard	408	+1
Peugeot	1194	-4
Saint Gobain	1101	-42

	LAST	CHANGE*
Bayer	84.35	-1.55
Daimler-Benz	181.5	-3.4
Lufthansa	49	-2.15
Mannesmann	185.5	-9.5
Metallgesellschaft	39.4	-1.4
Volkswagen	169.5	-5.5

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 27-JUL-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sal (Basket) (1)	3.9087	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.659	0
British Pound (1)	6.0663	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	2.0539	0
French Franc (1)	0.6125	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.571	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.447	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.4389	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.0822	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.1958	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	9028.24	+90.88
DJ Transport	3349.84	+12.14
DJ Utils	266.32	+0.24
DJ Comp	2851.16	+19.68
NYSE Industr	706.42	+1.28
NYSE Transport	486.99	+0.76
NYSE Comp	577.43	+1.11
S&P 100	563.72	+5.5
S&P Spot Index	1147.27	+6.47

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5836.1	-56.2
Tokyo Nikkei	15944.3	-417.5
Singapore all-share index	307.13	-0.22
Hang Kong Hang Seng Index	7964.4	-273
Israel Index	229.77	-3.15
Paris CAC 40	4139.53	-65.88
DAX	6035.28	-23.17
Madrid	921.75	-2.91
Sydney	2715.3	-30.2
Milan	1575.77	-13.51

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound: spot	1.657	-0.0046
Sep future (CME)	1.652	-0.003
D-mark: spot	1.7675	+0.0089
Sep future (CME)	0.5613	-0.0017
S-franc: spot	1.5049	+0.007
Sep future (CME)	0.6681	-0.0036
Yen: spot	142.43	+1.02
Sep future (CME)	0.007073	-4.6e-005
CanDlr: spot	1.5035	+0.0042
Sep future (CME)	0.6652	-0.0025
AusDlr: spot	0.6087	-0.0075
Sep future (CME)	0.9096	-0.0068
F-franc: spot	5.9935	+0.0233
It Lire: spot	1763.5	+7
Ntg: spot	2.0153	+0.0065
AusShlg: spot	12.546	+0.0342
Rand: spot	6.245	+0.09
ECU: spot	1.1053	-0.0039

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Sep) (CEC)	1559	-27
Coffee (Sep) (CEC)	112.1	+0.4
Wheat (Sep) (CBOT)	260.5	-4.75
Soybean (Sep) (CBOT)	569.75	-0.5
Sugar (Oct) (CEC)	8.44	+0.03
Orange juice (Sep)(CEC)	107.25	+2.15
Bonds Sep future	122.22	-0.1
S and P Sep future	1153.2	0

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Sep) (LCE)	1074	0
Coffee (Sep) (LCE)	1580	0
Brent crude oil (Sep)(IPE)	1312	+32

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	5.65	-0.16

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Dec)	294.8	-1.1
Silver (Sep)	5.65	-0.057
Platinum (Oct)	377.5	-3.3
Palladium (Sep)	302.25	-0.15
High-grade copper (Sep)	0.7915	-0.0155

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	290.75	-2.15
Gold PM fix	294.9	+0
Silver fix	562.5	-4.8

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market listings are from approximately 23.30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)
SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 27-JUL-98)

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TASE mixed ahead of interest rate announcement

Tel Aviv

Local stocks closed mixed yesterday, ahead of the interest rate announcement; with a decline in Koor Industries, one of the nation's largest holding companies, offset by a gain in Makhteshim-Agan, a chemical producer, on expectations its earnings will rise 20 percent this year.

Koor, Israel's largest exporter of chemicals and telecommunications equipment, fell 3.18 percent to NIS 426, pushing the Maof Index of 25 largest companies down 1.13 points, or 0.33 percent, to 336.19.

Makhteshim-Agan rose 1.53 percent to NIS 11.25, extending a three-day gain on expectations earnings will rise to NIS 0.83 per share, from NIS 0.69 in 1997. Analysts said the company, which focuses on generic chemical products, won't be affected by the slump in the US chemical industry.

"They'll do well this year and the key growth will come from their Latin American subsidiaries," said Avrom Gilbert, an analyst at Robert Fleming. "We have reiterated our 'buy' recommendation." Shares in Makhteshim-Agan have fallen 5 percent in the past four weeks on concern earnings will drop after DuPont, the US chemical giant, warned its profit won't meet expectations.

Makhteshim-Agan derives as much as 15 percent of its revenue from the US.

Bezeq, Israel's state-run telephone company, closed at NIS 12.34, down 0.16 percent from yesterday's close, after Merrill Lynch & Co. said it sold a 4.15 percent stake for $102.5 million to a buyer it didn't identify. Gilbert said the move was expected.

The government, which owns about 54 percent of Bezeq, is considering a plan to sell additional shares in the company in the US at the beginning of 1999. The sale could raise $500 million, Bezeq chairman Izzy Tapuchi said last month.

Europe

UK stocks fell for a fifth consecutive day led by drugmaker Glaxo Wellcome Plc on concern results Thursday won't meet expectations. British Telecommunications Plc gained on hopes for its proposed venture with AT&T Corp.

The FTSE 100 Index fell 56.2 points to 5836.1, posting its biggest five-day decline in nine months. Glaxo fell 81 pence to 1,700p, while BT bucked the trend rising 43p to 868.

Glaxo, the world's second-biggest drugmaker, is expected to post a 25 percent drop in first-half net income Thursday as it adjusts to last year's patent expirations for what were then its two biggest-selling drugs, Zantac for ulcers and Zovirax for herpes.

"The market's not seen a lot of earnings per share growth from this company," said Nigel Thomas, the director of ABN Amro Asset Management's 40 million-pound ($66 million) UK Growth Fund, who owns Glaxo although he isn't considering selling at the moment.

Net income could fall to 788 million pounds ($1.31 billion), or 22.06 pence a share, from 1.045 billion pounds, or 29.4 pence a share, a year ago, according to a poll of five analysts. The range was 762 million to 800 million pounds.

Thomas said he's heavily weighted in telecoms and pharmaceuticals and has turned some holdings into cash where the stocks became overvalued. He declined to name the stocks sold.



Maof 336.19 ▼ 0.33%
Dow Jones 9028 ▲ 1.02%
FTSE 5836.1 ▼ 0.95%
Nikkei 15944.36 ▼ 2.55%

Asia

Japanese benchmark stock index fell to a one-month low on expectations Japan's next premier and his likely appointee for finance minister won't be able to rouse the nation from its economic slump.

Banks such as Sumitomo Bank Ltd. and top exporters including Sony Corp. paced the decline. Keizo Obuchi, the new Liberal Democratic Party president and shoo-in for the new premier, will probably tap former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for the key finance minister's position.

"Miyazawa is too tied in to the problem to be a credible part of the solution," said Fiachra Mac Cana, director of research at WestLB Securities Pacific Ltd. "A Miyazawa appointment will lead to a weak currency and a declining market."

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index fell 417.53 points, or 2.55 percent, to 15,944.36. That's its lowest since June 30 and the biggest one-day drop since April 16. The benchmark has fallen four of the last five days as Obuchi came to the fore as Japan's new leader. The broader Topix index of all companies listed on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange slid 24.03 points, or 1.91 percent, to 1233.98. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

Blue-chip shares rose sharply yesterday after shaking off an early slide, but most stocks finished lower amid continuing worries about last week's rash of profit warnings.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 90.88 points to 9,028.24 after erasing an early 81-point drop that put the measure almost 500 points below July 17's record of 9,337.97.

Yesterday's blue-chip recovery also wiped out a 43-point plunge by the Nasdaq composite index and a 12-point loss by the Standard and Poor's 500, but declining issues outnumbered advancers by a wide margin.

Stocks were pressured at the open by a troubling day on foreign markets, where the Japanese yen slid against the dollar and Tokyo's Nikkei Stock Average fell 2.6%.

Boeing, one of the big names that had discouraging earnings news last week – including a mention of Asia's continuing negative impact – led the early decline in the Dow, which pushed higher with help from American Express, and Procter and Gamble.

The Standard and Poor's 500 rose 6.47 to 1,147.27, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 2.28 to 1,933.27. (AP)

Yen falls amid doubts Japan will revive economy

The dollar rose to a two-week high against the yen on speculation Japan's prime minister-designate won't be able to pull Japan out of its economic slump.

Keizo Obuchi hasn't yet chosen a finance minister though several candidates have declined offers for the cabinet position, according to Japanese news agencies.

"There is pessimism about Obuchi's ability to turn the economy around," said Thomas Benfer, director of foreign exchange at Bank of Montreal.

"The Finance Ministry post is very powerful" and doubts that a strong candidate will emerge is driving the dollar higher, he said.

The dollar rose in Asian and London trading to 142.18 yen, its strongest since July 13, from 141.70 late Friday in New York.

It was little changed at 1.7792 marks from 1.7807 marks.

Among names mentioned for Japanese finance minister is Kiichi Miyazawa, 78, who served in that role from 1986 to 1988, when the "bubble economy" was swelling. He was prime minister from 1991 to 1993, when the economy began its long slowdown.

Two Japanese news agencies, Kyodo News and Jiji Press, reported that Miyazawa declined on account of his age.

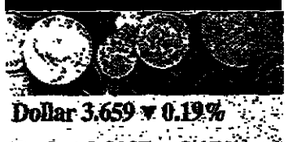
Among other possibilities, neither LDP Secretary General Koichi Kato nor former chief cabinet secretary Seiroku Kajiyama, who ran against Obuchi in Friday's LDP election, want the job, Japanese media reported.

"The finance minister's post is being pushed around like a hot potato," said Steve Barrow, a currency strategist at Bear Stearns International, who expects the dollar to rise to 145 yen this week. "It seems difficult to find someone willing."

Concern the new government won't do enough to revive the economy drove Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index down 2.5% to a nine-day low of 15,944.36. Falling stocks also hurt the yen, since international investors selling Japanese shares typically sell the yen proceeds.

"The fall in the Nikkei provides a sanitary reminder of the need for decisive and rapid action," said Michael Burke, a director at Burke and MacKinnon Ltd., a hedge fund advisory firm in London.

Japan's economy slipped into recession, contracting 0.7% in the year ended March 31. The Bank of Japan has held its benchmark discount rate at a record-low 0.5% since September 1995, and is likely to keep it there when its policy makers meet today. With rates at that level, investors said US-denominated assets will continue to be more attractive. (Bloomberg)



Dollar 3.659 ▼ 0.19%
Basket 3.9087 ▼ 0.17%
Mark 2.0539 ▼ 0.04%
Sterling 6.0663 ▲ 0.2%

Coffee falls on mild Brazilian weather forecast

Precious metals

Silver for immediate delivery fell 3 cents to $5.675 an ounce as expectations rising production would narrow the gap between supply and demand prompted speculators to sell the metal.

Refined silver production increased by 12 percent in the first five months of 1998 compared to the same period in 1997, a Macquarie Equities report said, citing the American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

Gold for August delivery fell as much as $1.60, to $289.60 an ounce on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Gold fell as the US dollar rose to a two-week high against the yen on speculation Japan's prime minister-designate and his probable choice for finance minister won't soon be able to pull Japan out of its economic slump.

A stronger US currency makes dollar-priced gold and other precious metals more expensive to buy for investors who use other currencies, thereby crimping demand.

Energy

Crude oil for September delivery rose as much as 28 cents, or 2%, to $14.15 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The United Nations sanctions committee has not yet approved the purchase of about $80 million in spare parts that Iraq needs to repair oil installation, Agence France Presse reported, citing the official Iraqi news agency INA.

Iraq, which has been under sanctions since the 1991 Gulf War, is allowed to export $5.2 billion worth of oil every six months. The contracts are part of $300 million in spare-part imports the UN Security Council approved in June to repair damage to Iraq's oil industry sustained during the war.

UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said on July 21 that the UN approved the first spare-part contract worth $632,000 in equipment to upgrade the oil pipeline between Iraq and Turkey.

Coffee for September delivery fell $11 to $1,552 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange on forecasts for mild temperatures this week in Brazil, the world's largest coffee grower.

While temperatures will probably fall in Brazilian coffee groves later this week, they're not likely to drop low enough for trees to be damaged by frost, Massachusetts-based Weather Services Corp. said.

Frost can damage coffee trees, reducing future output and driving prices higher.

Others

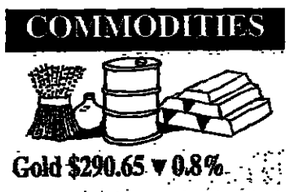
Copper for three-month delivery fell $19 from its highest closing price in more than two months to $1,754 a ton on the London Metal Exchange after the exchange reported the eighth straight rise in its global copper stockpile.

Rio Tinto Plc, the world's largest mining company and third-largest copper producer, said its production of refined copper rose 124% in the three months ending June 30, compared to the same quarter in 1997.

White sugar for October delivery fell $1.60 to $246 a metric ton on Liffe after Indonesia, Asia's third-largest sugar importer, said it would buy less refined sugar over the coming months.

The Indonesian government said Friday it will buy 500,000 metric tons of raw sugar and 200,000 metric tons of refined sugar during the coming months, commodities brokerage GNI Ltd. said in its daily market report.

Analysts say the white sugar figure is lower than expected. Indonesia imported 660,000 metric tons of white sugar from Thailand in the period January 1 to May 31. (Bloomberg)



Gold $290.65 ▼ 0.8%
Crude Oil $12.87 ▲ 0.04%
CRB 206.58 ▼ 0.85%

US bonds rise as dollar gains against yen

US bonds rose as the dollar gained and as stocks in the US and elsewhere around the world slumped, boosting the allure of Treasury securities.

"With the turmoil in other markets and low inflation, we see a bias in the [bond] market toward lower US rates," said Steve Merrell, who manages about $2.5 billion in fixed-income securities at American Express Asset Management in Minneapolis.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose 6/32, or $1.88 per $1,000 bond, to 106 13/32, pushing its yield down 1 basis point to 5.67 percent. The two-year note's yield fell 3 basis points to 5.44%.

Bond investors have taken their cues from the US stock market in recent days, rising when stocks slump and falling when they gain. The Standard & Poor's 500 index had its worst week since January last week, boosting the allure of less risky Treasuries.

"The focus early on is stocks," said Rob McCool, trader at First Chicago Capital Markets Inc. "Bonds will continue to perform with an inverse reaction to equities."



US 30 -yearT-bill yield
5.67 ▼ 0.01

Merrell at American Express, who predicts yields may fall to 5.5% in the months ahead, said he's holding more Treasuries in his portfolio than the benchmark against which he measures performance.

"I don't think there's a major risk of interest rates moving higher," Merrell said.

In Japan, some investors doubted Japanese prime minister-designate Keizo Obuchi will move quickly to boost consumer confidence.

US bonds will be supported by "the market's worst suspicions, namely that nothing has changed and that politics may again win the day over economics," said Michael Derks, chief bond strategist at Nomura International. "Treasuries will benefit while this perception persists."

Bonds were also supported by a rising dollar. The dollar rose as high as 142.77 yen, up from 141.70 on Friday, as traders speculated that former prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Obuchi's most likely choice for finance minister, won't revive Japan's economy quickly.

A rising dollar makes US debt more attractive to overseas investors, since the proceeds of a bond's payments are increased when converted into other currencies. (Bloomberg)

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	*5.550*	*5.540*	*5.820*
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (27.5.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	BANKNOTES Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.8684	3.9308	—	—	3.9001
U.S. dollar	*3.6109*	*3.6692*	*3.54*	*3.73*	*3.6400*
German mark	2.0464	2.0795	2.01	2.11	2.0645
Pound sterling	5.9287	6.0244	5.82	6.11	5.9636
French franc	0.6105	0.6204	0.60	0.63	0.6156
Japanese yen (100)	2.6248	2.6672	2.57	2.71	2.6475
Dutch florin	*1.8180*	*1.8453*	*1.78*	*1.88*	*1.8321*
Swiss franc	2.4714	2.5113	2.42	2.55	2.4997
Swedish krona	0.4690	0.4756	0.46	0.49	0.4710
Norwegian krone	0.4835	0.4913	0.47	0.50	0.4853
Danish krone	0.5375	0.5462	0.52	0.56	0.5420
Finnish mark	0.6734	0.6843	0.66	0.70	0.6794
Canadian dollar	2.4785	2.5185	2.43	2.58	2.4999
Australian dollar	2.2361	2.2722	2.19	2.31	2.2595
S. African rand	0.7035	0.7149	0.63	0.72	0.7085
Belgian franc (10)	0.9920	1.0081	0.97	1.03	1.0005
Austrian schilling (10)	*2.9088*	*2.9558*	*2.85*	*3.00*	*2.9339*
Italian lira (1000)	2.0758	2.1091	2.03	2.14	2.0942
Jordanian dinar	5.0785	5.1605	5.01	5.35	5.1506
Egyptian pound	1.0200	1.1100	1.02	1.11	1.1102
ECU	4.0310	4.0961	—	—	4.0642
Irish punt	*5.1549*	*5.2381*	*5.06*	*5.32*	*5.2001*
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4095	2.4484	2.36	2.49	2.4301

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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FIRE	**102**
FIRST AID	**101**

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Three fans killed in auto race crash

BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) – A crash at the US 500 auto race hurled a tire and other car parts into the grandstand, killing three spectators and injuring six others.

It was the first time in more than a decade that spectators were killed in an accident in a major auto race.

Dr. Gregory Baumann, the chief medical director at Michigan Speedway, said two people died instantly Sunday from the impact of the debris. A third person later died at one of the track's medical units.

Six spectators were taken by helicopter to Foote Hospital in Jackson, where they were listed in stable condition with injuries ranging from a fractured leg to neck and back injuries, hospital officials said.

A car driven by Adrian Fernandez of Mexico, the pole winner for the Championship Auto Racing Teams race, slid into the wall on lap 175 of the 250-lap race.

His right front tire and pieces of the suspension broke off, flying into the crowd in the fourth-turn grandstand. Fernandez, who was in third place at the time of the crash, suffered bruised knees.

As he heard the noise of the crash below, Gerald Bramer stood up to see what was happening. "The next thing I know, a tire was flying in the air right at us," said Bramer, who attended the race with his brother Rich.

Bramer said he threw up his arm to block the tire as it brushed by him. It hit his brother in the back, but neither was injured seriously.

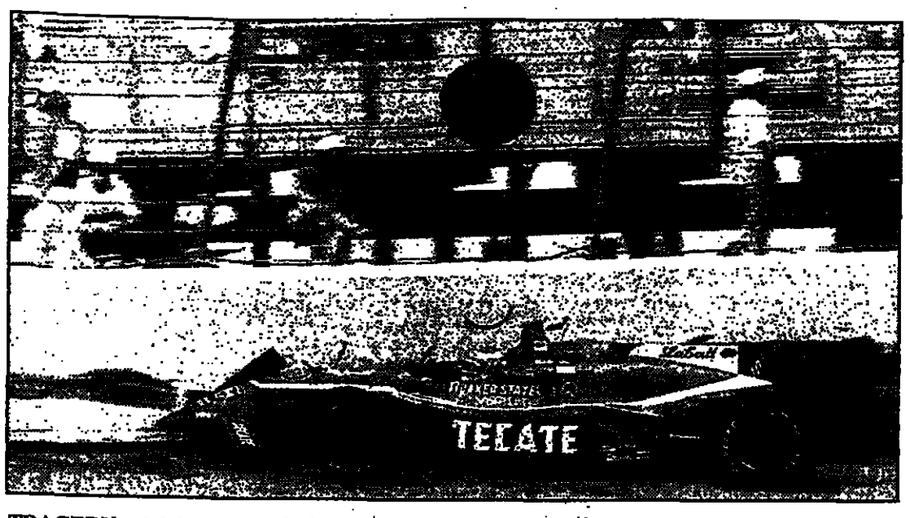
Becky Lutgen was at the track with her boyfriend watching Fernandez's car as it rounded the bend. She said they didn't see the tire from his car until it hit the stands and then landed about four or five rows behind them.

"It ricocheted in the stands and came to rest between some rows. It went by so fast," Lutgen said.

The deaths were the first among spectators at the track since 1969, when one fan was killed during a Trans-Am race on the road course.

At the 1987 Indianapolis 500, a tire bounded off the track, landing in the top row of the grandstand and killing a fan.

There have been other spectator deaths since at drag races and other auto events.



TRAGEDY – Adrian Fernandez's car slides into the wall at Michigan Freeway, and loses its tire which went flying into the stands, killing three. (AP)

Sainz wins Rally of New Zealand

Spanish driver Carlos Sainz won the Rally of New Zealand yesterday for the fourth time to regain the lead in the world rally championship.

Sainz recorded his 22nd championship victory, a record, in edging his Toyota teammate Didier Auriol of France by 4.1 seconds. Sainz clocked 3 hours, 54 minutes, 57.1 seconds.

Reigning champion Tommy Makkinen of Finland finished third, fellow Finn Juha Kankkunen fourth and Colin McRae of Scotland fifth.

Sainz has 41 drivers' championship points, McRae has 38 and Makkinen is in third place on 28 points.

Track and field stars Barnes, Mitchell suspended for drugs

NEW YORK (AP) – Two of the biggest names in US track and field – shot putter Randy Barnes and sprinter Dennis Mitchell – have been suspended indefinitely for drug use.

Barnes, the 1996 Olympic gold medalist and the world indoor and outdoor record-holder, and Mitchell, the 1992 Olympic bronze medalist in the 100 meters, were cited yesterday by the sport's world governing body for failing drug tests April 1.

Barnes, who could face a life suspension, was tested in Charleston, West Virginia., and Mitchell in Gainesville, Florida.

Mitchell is president of USA Track and Field's Athletes Advisory Committee, the athletes' voice in the national governing body, which has taken a hard stance against drugs.

His suspension was handed down last week and represents his first drug offense.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation did not officially announce the suspensions, and the precise terms of the punishment have yet to be determined.

These are two of the most prominent suspensions in track and field, following Ben Johnson at the 1988 Olympics, Butch Reynolds in 1990 and Mary Slaney in 1997.

Johnson is banned for life. Reynolds served his suspension and is now competing. Slaney was cleared and is also running again.

IAAF spokesman Giorgio Reneiri said yesterday from Monaco that Barnes and Mitchell tested positive during out-of-competition samples.

So far, only the A samples have been tested, Reneiri said.

However, that is sufficient for the IAAF to levy a suspension.

If their B samples are positive, the IAAF will then rule on the severity of the punishment pending a hearing by USATF. If the B sample is negative, they are cleared.

Samaranch calls for world conference on drugs

LAUSANNE (AP) – As president Juan Antonio Samaranch came under fire for reportedly suggesting that some performance-enhancing drugs should be legal, the IOC said yesterday it will convene a special conference on doping in January.

In the wake of Samaranch's controversial remarks in a Spanish newspaper, the International Olympic Committee said it would organize a meeting in Lausanne to review the fight against doping in sport.

The statement said Samaranch expects the conference to produce "a clear definition of doping."

The initiative comes amid the doping scandal which has tarnished the Tour de France cycling race, with riders and team officials implicated in widespread use of EPO and other illegal drugs.

Samaranch was quoted in the Spanish paper *El Mundo* on Sunday as saying the list of banned substances should be "drastically" reduced and that drugs which don't damage an athlete's health should not be prohibited.

"Doping now is everything that, firstly, is harmful to an athlete's health and, secondly, artificially augments his performance," he was quoted as saying. "If it's just the second case, for me that's not doping. If it's the first case, it is."

Steroids and EPO, a synthetic hormone which boosts endurance by stimulating the production of red blood cells, are known to pose serious health hazards.

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THE REIGN IN SPAIN – Spanish team captain Miguel Margets (l) celebrates next to his players after Conchita Martinez (3rd from left) and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (c) took the Federation Cup semifinal from the US. (Reuters)

Spanish, Swiss advance to Fed Cup final

MADRID (AP) – Switzerland reached its first Fed Cup final, while Spain beat the United States to reach its eighth final since 1989.

Top-ranked Martina Hingis led the Swiss to a 5-0 sweep over defending champion France. Hingis defeated Amelie Mauresmo 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 6-2 on Sunday in Sion, Switzerland, to give the host country an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the best-of-5 competition.

"As the world's No. 1 you are always expected to be a key player in the Fed Cup, and help the team advance," said Hingis, who has won four Grand Slam titles. "With me as No. 1 and Patty (Schnyder) doing so well this year we have a really good chance at the finals."

The final in September will match Switzerland against four-time champion Spain, which beat the US 3-2 with a thrilling doubles victory in Madrid.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez edged Lisa Raymond and Mary Joe Fernandez 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 11-9 in the decisive match before a boisterous crowd waving red and yellow Spanish flags.

Martinez said she and Sanchez Vicario were exhausted at the end of the marathon match, which lasted three hours, 40 minutes.

"I don't know where we found the strength," Martinez said.

In the first match of the day, Monica Seles beat Sanchez Vicario 6-4, 6-0 to give the US a 2-1 lead. Martinez then evened the series by defeating Raymond 7-6 (7-1), 6-4.

While US-Spain came down to the final match, Switzerland dominated France.

After Hingis and Schynder each won their two singles matches, Schnyder teamed with Emmanuelle Gagliardi to defeat Nathalie Tauziat and Alexandra Fusai 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 in doubles.

While Schnyder beat Julie Halard-Decugis in straight sets Sunday, Hingis struggled to defeat Mauresmo before 8,000 cowbell-ringing fans.

"The public was so helpful. It was thanks to them it was possible for me to come back," said Hingis, who lost the first set and trailed 4-1 in the second before rallying.

"Their support kept me going. It was incredible how they made me feel out there." The victory capped a remarkable rise by the Swiss, who were languishing in the third division of Fed Cup play when Hingis joined the team in 1995.

A year later, Switzerland climbed out of the European qualifying group. Last year, Hingis and Schnyder joined forces to elevate the nation into the main draw by winning over Argentina in Zurich.

US hopes buried in sands of Central Park

GOODWILL GAMES

NEW YORK (AP) – On a pile of sand dumped on an ice-skating rink surrounded by skyscrapers, a pair of Brazilians showed why they are the world's top-ranked beach volleyball team and kept the sport's senior dude from adding another victory to his record list.

Guilherme Marques and Para Ferreira beat the US team of Karch Kiraly (12-11) and Adam Johnson (12-4) Sunday to win the gold medal at the Goodwill Games.

With almost one million pounds of sand imported from Canada to cover Wollman Rink in Central Park, a sport that's used to endless horizons of the seashore was played with huge shade trees nearby and the office buildings, hotels and apartment towers of midtown Manhattan looming above.

A near-capacity crowd of 2,800 was charged up early, hoping to see the 37-year-old Kiraly, who is often mentioned as his sport's Babe Ruth, Wayne Gretzky or Michael Jordan, add another title to the 130 he has won over his 12-year career.

It started well for the US team, but the Brazilians, the defending world champions, took control late in the first game and dominated the second to sweep the best-of-three match for the gold medal.

The Brazilians, who shared $30,000 as champions, definitely had age on their side, with the 29-year-old Guilherme five years older than Para, who is considered the best player in the world right now. Johnson, 33, and Kiraly, partners on the US professional circuit, split $20,000 for winning the silver.

The US team had a 9-6 lead in the opening game, but the Brazilians ran off five straight points to set up a game point.

Kiraly and Johnson managed to tie it 11-11 with Kiraly making a great diving save on one point and coming up with a great stuff at the net for the other.

The Brazilians got the serve back on the next play, then put the opening game away with an immediate point.

Guilherme and Para – just like Brazil's soccer player, they usually go by one name only – took command of the second game with a 6-point run for an 8-1 lead. The second game was much closer to the early round meeting that Brazil won 15-3, Kiraly and Johnson's only loss before the gold medal match.

The air temperature was 81°F and a thermometer in the sand registered 102°F, well off the 125 that was recorded earlier in the week.

What Kiraly and Johnson couldn't do, the US wrestlers could – win gold.

They beat Russia 16-14 for the title, with victories from Sam Henson, Tony Purier and Cary Kolat.

Turkey beat Iran 16-13 for the bronze medal in a meet that had none of the loud political protests by anti-Tehran exiles that disrupted the US win over the Iranians Saturday night.

American cyclists won gold, too, taking an unusual two-day team race over a squad of men and women riders from a handful of countries. Russia was third.

Doctors, meanwhile, reported that paralyzed Chinese gymnast Sang Lan was able to sit up after surgery that rebuilt her upper spine, fractured in a practice vault. But they repeated earlier statements that the 17-year-old probably would never walk again.

McGwire breaks slump with 44th; Sosa at 38; Hoffman blows save

DENVER (AP) – Mark McGwire ended an 0-for-16 slump with his major league-leading 44th homer as the St. Louis Cardinals snapped the Colorado Rockies' five-game winning streak with a 3-1 win on Sunday.

The homer, a 452-foot shot in the fourth inning, broke the Cardinals' mark of 43 set by Johnny Mize in 1940 and was McGwire's first since last Monday as he added to his major league record for home runs before August 1.

It was McGwire's only hit of the game – he went 1-for-4. His 0-for-16 drought was his longest of the season.

Padres 5, Houston 4

In 41 straight save chances, Trevor Hoffman had been perfect. Then on one pitch, his streak ended and so did his bid to set a major league record.

The San Diego closer gave up a home run to Moises Alou on his first delivery in the top of the ninth inning, tying the game. The Padres wound up beating Houston 5-4 in the 10th, but Hoffman blew his chance at history.

Hoffman entered the game to the loud sounds of AC/DC's *Hell's Bells* playing over the public address system, just as he did Saturday when he matched the consecutive save record of 41 set by San Francisco's Rod Beck from 1993-95.

After the music, most of the 41,034 fans stood to cheer for Hoffman. There was just silence, however, after Alou connected for his 25th homer of the season to tie it at 4.

Hoffman, who had recorded 33 saves this season, had not blown a save chance since last Aug. 22.

The Padres won in the 10th on Andy Sheets' RBI single with two outs off Mike Magnante (3-5). Donne Wall (4-2) picked up the victory.

Giants 2, Reds 1 (10)

Jeff Kent hit reliever Stan Belinda's second pitch for a home run in the bottom of the 10th inning.

Jose Mesa (1-0) struck out the side in the 10th for his first victory since joining San Francisco on Friday. It also marks the first series the slumping Giants have won since the All-Star break.

Brewers 6, Expos 5

Bob Hamelin and Jeff Cirillo hit home runs and Darrin Jackson doubled home the tiebreaking run in the bottom of the eighth inning.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 3

Matt Luke and Eric Karros homered and Ismael Valdes pitched five scoreless innings before leaving with an injury as Los Angeles won at home.

Four relievers combined to help Valdes (9-9) win three consecutive starts for the first time since last August. The right-hander gave up four hits before straining a muscle in his left side while warming up for the sixth. He will be re-evaluated on Monday..

In NL games reported in yesterday's edition:

Phillies 10, Marlins 9

In Philadelphia, Rico Brogna hit a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth inning and the Philadelphia Phillies rallied from an early seven-run deficit to beat the Florida Marlins.

Philadelphia won three of four games in the series, all three by comeback. Scott Rolen homered and drove in four runs for the Phillies.

Cubs 3, Mets 1

Sammy Sosa hit his 38th homer and Kerry Wood remained unbeaten at Wrigley Field as Chicago improved its wild-card lead to 3½ games.

Wood (10-5) allowed four hits in seven innings and ran his home record to 7-0 in nine career starts at Wrigley. The rookie walked three, struck out six and gave up Brian McRae's 15th homer in the third.

Rod Beck pitched the ninth for his 31st save, converting 14 straight chances.

Braves 2, Pirates 1

Greg Maddux extended his four-year winning streak against host Pittsburgh. Maddux (14-4), who had lost two of his previous three decisions, made certain he didn't lose consecutive starts for the first time this season by limiting the Pirates to a run on four hits in 7 2/3 innings.

Maddux improved to 5-0 in nine starts since last losing to Pittsburgh on April 30, 1994.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Royals 9, Angels 4

Jose Offerman extended his hitting streak to a career-high 15 games with a single during a five-run first inning to help Kansas City to a home win.

Offerman doubled, singled twice, walked and scored twice. He has reached base in 16 of his last 22 plate appearances. Dean Palmer and Jeff Conine each drove in two runs for the Royals.

Twins 11, Rangers 3

Todd Walker kept up his tear with four more hits, including a three-run homer, and host Minnesota took its first three-game sweep of the season.

Walker, who has reached base in his last 10 plate appearances, finished the six-game homestand 15-for-20 and raised his average to .352.

In AL games reported in yesterday's edition:

Red Sox 6, Blue Jays 3

Pedro Martinez pitched seven scoreless innings to win his 14th game. The righthander, who has only three losses, gave up six hits and one walk, struck out six and allowed only two batters as far as third base before leaving with a 5-0 lead. He won for the eighth time in nine starts.

Yankees 6, White Sox 3

David Wells (12-2) allowed three runs and seven hits with 10 strikeouts in 7⅔ innings, improving to 8-0 in 10 starts at home.

Albert Belle hit his 31st home run for the White Sox. Jorge Posada hit a two-run homer for New York.

Mariners 10, Orioles 4

Ken Griffey Jr. went 1-for-2 with three walks and three stolen bases, but did not homer for a third straight game and remained at 40 for the season. He had 10 steals in 12 attempts before having a perfect day against host Baltimore's catcher Lenny Webster.

Tigers 8, Indians 1

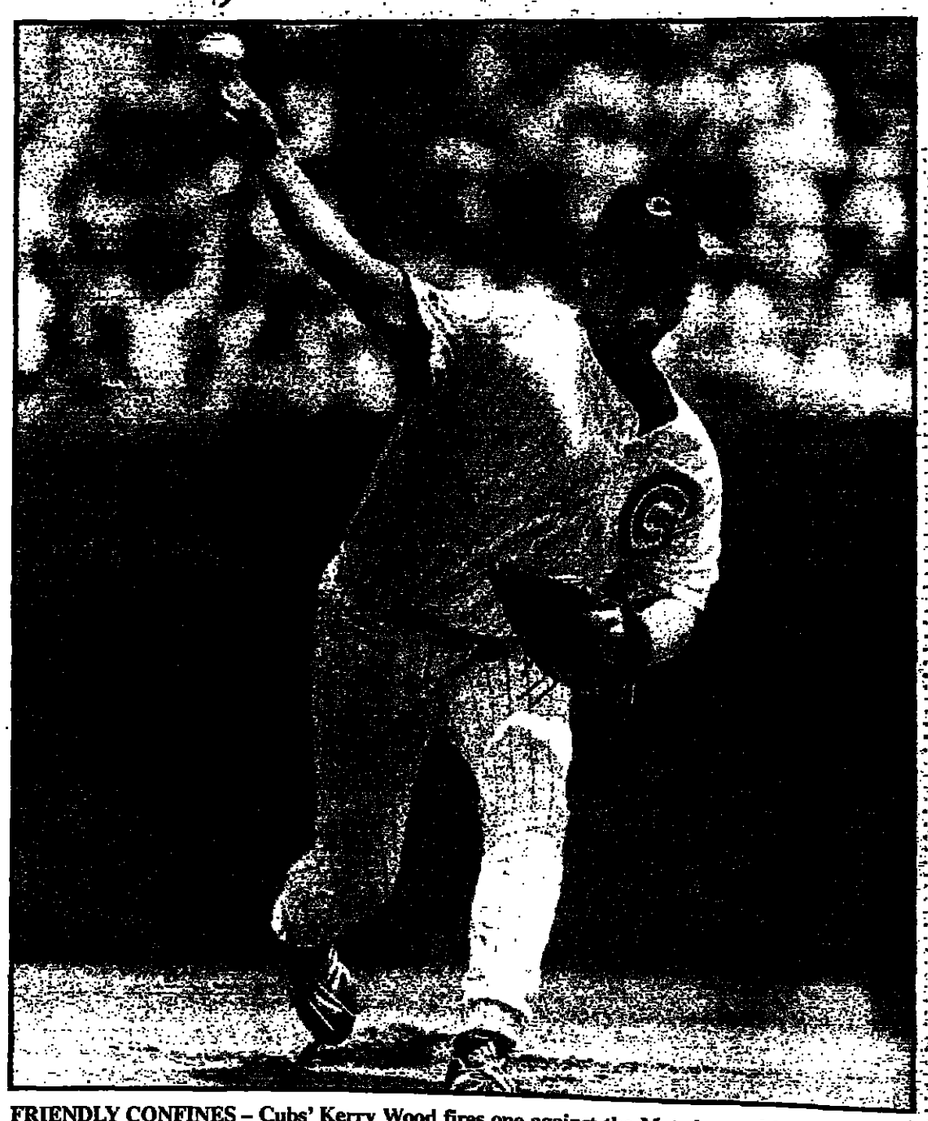
Brian Moehler pitched Detroit to a rare road victory.

Dwight Gooden (3-6) lost his third straight start.

Devil Rays 3, Athletics 1

Fred McGriff hit a two-run homer as host Tampa Bay equaled a season-best four-game winning streak.

McGriff's third-inning shot off Tom Candiotti (5-13) broke a 1-1 tie. Alvarez (5-8) allowed one run and three hits in seven innings.



FRIENDLY CONFINES – Cubs' Kerry Wood fires one against the Mets in notching his 7th win at Wrigley Field. Wood allowed four hits in a 7-inning outing in Chicago's 3-1 victory. (Reuters)

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING—BWilliams, New York, .355; TWalker, Minnesota, .352; IRodriguez, Texas, .340; Segui, Seattle, .331; MVaughn, Boston, .328; Stairs, Oakland, .327; HMorris, Kansas City, .325.

RUNS—Griffey Jr, Seattle, 89; Durham, Chicago, 80; Thome, Cleveland, 78; ARodriguez, Seattle, 77; DJeter, New York, 75; Grieve, Oakland, 73; Knoblauch, New York, 73; JuGonzalez, Texas, 73.

RBI—JuGonzalez, Texas, 116; Belle, Chicago, 91; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 91; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 87; ARodriguez, Seattle, 84; MRamirez, Cleveland, 82; Thome, Cleveland, 80.

HITS—Erstad, Anaheim, 132; ARodriguez, Seattle, 132; Higginson, Detroit, 129; IRodriguez, Texas, 127; O'Neill, New York, 124; MVaughn, Boston, 123; JuGonzalez, Texas, 123; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 123.

HOME RUNS—Griffey Jr, Seattle, 40; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 33; ARodriguez, Seattle, 31; JuGonzalez, Texas, 31; Belle, Chicago, 31; Canseco, Toronto, 29; Thome, Cleveland, 28.

STOLEN BASES—Henderson, Oakland, 43; Lofton, Cleveland, 31; Stewart, Toronto, 30; ARodriguez, Seattle, 28; TGoodwin, Texas, 28; BLHunter, Detroit, 25; Durham, Chicago, 24; Offerman, Kansas City, 24.

PITCHING (12 Decisions)—DWells, New York, 12-2, .857, 3.68; PMartinez, Boston, 14-3, .824, 2.59; Cone, New York, 14-3, .824, 3.44; Rogers, Oakland, 10-4, .714, 2.90; Irabu, New York, 9-4, .692, 3.19; Colon, Cleveland, 11-5, .687, 2.74; Wakefield, Boston, 11-5, .687, 4.23.

STRIKEOUTS—RJohnson, Seattle, 201; PMartinez, Boston, 165; CFinley, Anaheim, 145; Clemens, Toronto, 144; Erickson, Baltimore, 129; Cone, New York, 128; Colon, Cleveland, 118; Sele, Texas, 118.

SAVES—Percival, Anaheim, 29; Gordon, Boston, 28; MRivera, New York, 27; Wetteland, Texas, 27; MJackson, Cleveland, 25; RaMyers, Toronto, 25; JMontgomery, Kansas City, 24; Aguilera, Minnesota, 24.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING—Bichette, Colorado, .338; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .335; LWalker, Colorado, .334; Olerud, New York, .329; DeBell, Houston, .326; Castilla, Colorado, .325; Morandini, Chicago, .325.

RUNS—ChJones, Atlanta, 86; GVaughn, San Diego, 83; McGwire, St. Louis, 82; Biggio, Houston, 81; Glanville, Philadelphia, 80; Bagwell, Houston, 75; Sosa, Chicago, 75.

RBI—McGwire, St. Louis, 98; Sosa, Chicago, 96; Castilla, Colorado, 95; GVaughn, San Diego, 89; Bichette, Colorado, 87; Alou, Houston, 86; Galarraga, Atlanta, 86.

HITS—Bichette, Colorado, 147; Glanville, Philadelphia, 137; Castilla, Colorado, 135; DeBell, Houston, 134; Biggio, Houston, 132; VGuerrero, Montreal, 131; ChJones, Atlanta, 128.

HOME RUNS—McGwire, St. Louis, 44; Sosa, Chicago, 38; GVaughn, San Diego, 37; Castilla, Colorado, 33; Galarraga, Atlanta, 33; ChJones, Atlanta, 26; Alou, Houston, 25.

STOLEN BASES—Womack, Pittsburgh, 40; EcYoung, Los Angeles, 33; Renteria, Florida, 32; Biggio, Houston, 31; Floyd, Florida, 24; QVeras, San Diego, 19; Clayton, St. Louis, 19.

PITCHING (12 Decisions)—KBrown, San Diego, 12-3, .800, 2.61; Glavine, Atlanta, 14-4, .778, 2.70; GMaddux, Atlanta, 14-4, .778, 1.59; Gomes, Philadelphia, 9-3, .750, 3.60; Ashby, San Diego, 14-5, .737, 2.49; ALeiter, New York, 10-4, .714, 1.97; Millwood, Atlanta, 11-5, .687, 4.19.

STRIKEOUTS—Schilling, Philadelphia, 209; Wood, Chicago, 173; KBrown, San Diego, 159; Stottlemyre, St. Louis, 147; GMaddux, Atlanta, 136; Dreifort, Los Angeles, 125; Nomo, New York, 122.

SAVES—Hoffman, San Diego, 33; Beck, Chicago, 31; Shaw, Los Angeles, 30; Nen, San Francisco, 27; Urbina, Montreal, 23; BWagner, Houston, 22; MLeiter, Philadelphia, 20; JFranco, New York, 20.

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	73	26	.737	–
Boston	60	43	.582	15
Baltimore	52	53	.495	24
Toronto	52	54	.491	24½
Tampa Bay	40	62	.392	34½
Central Division				
Cleveland	59	45	.567	–
Minnesota	48	55	.466	10½
Kansas City	46	57	.447	12½
Chicago	45	59	.433	14
Detroit	44	59	.427	14½
West Division				
Anaheim	56	47	.544	–
Texas	56	48	.538	½
Seattle	48	56	.461	8½
Oakland	46	57	.447	10

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	69	36	.657	–
New York	54	48	.529	13½
Philadelphia	54	49	.524	14
Montreal	40	65	.381	29
Florida	38	67	.362	31
Central Division				
Houston	61	43	.586	–
Chicago	59	46	.562	2½
Milwaukee	53	52	.505	8½
St. Louis	49	55	.471	12
Pittsburgh	49	56	.467	12½
Cincinnati	46	59	.438	15½
West Division				
San Diego	69	36	.657	–
San Francisco	56	49	.533	13
Los Angeles	54	51	.514	15
Colorado	46	59	.438	23
Arizona	37	67	.356	31½

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Toronto 000 000 012–3 10 0
Boston 010 001 31x–5 12 0
Hentgen, Sleb (8) and Fletcher; Martinez, Wasdin (9), Lowe (8), Gordon (9) and Hatteberg. W–Martinez, 14-3. L–Hentgen, 9-8. HRs–Toronto, Canseco (29). Boston, Garciaparra (19), Buford (7).

Oakland 010 000 000–1 3 0
Tampa Bay 012 000 00x–3 10 0
Candiotti, Taylor (8) and Hinch; Alvarez, Yan (8) and Flaherty. W–Alvarez, 5-8. L–Candiotti, 5-13. Sv–Yan (1). HRs–Oakland, Blowers (7). Tampa Bay, McGriff (10).

Detroit 003 100 211–8 16 0
Cleveland 000 000 100–1 9 1
Moehler, Runyan (7), Anderson (9) and Bako; Gooden, Ogea (5), Villone (8), Jones (8) and Alomar. W–Moehler, 11-7. L–Gooden, 3-6. HRs–Detroit, Clark 2 (23).

Chicago 010 020 000–3 7 1
New York 021 003 00x–6 7 1
Navarro, Karchner (6) and Machado; Wells, Rivera (8) and Posada. W–Wells, 12-2. L–Navarro, 8-12. Sv–Rivera (27). HRs–Chicago, Durham (12), Belle (31). New York, Williams (12), Posada (11).

Seattle 005 022 010–10 13 1
Baltimore 003 001 000–4 6 3
Moyer, McCarthy (8), Ayala (9) and Marzano; Erickson, Rodriguez (6), Charlton (9) and Webster. W–Moyer, 9-7. L–Erickson, 11-8. HR–Baltimore, Sumoll (15).

Texas 000 002 010–3 8 0
Minnesota 000 501 50x–11 14 0
Helling, Bailes (7), Crabtree (7), Gunderson (8) and Rodriguez, Haselman (8); Hawkins, Guardado (7) and Valentin. W–Hawkins, 7-9. L–Helling, 13-6. HRs–Texas, Gonzalez (31). Minnesota, Cordova (8), Walker (8).

Anaheim 010 002 001–4 13 1
Kansas City 503 001 00x–9 13 0
Olivares, Sparks (4), Cadaret (7) and Nevin; Rosado, Bones (7), Pittsley (8) and Sweeney. W–Rosado 5-8. L–Olivares 5-7.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Atlanta 000 100 010–2 9 2
Pittsburgh 000 001 000–1 4 0
Maddux, Springer (8), Ligtenberg (9) and Perez; Schmidt, Rincon (8) and Kendall. W–Maddux, 14-4. L–Schmidt, 8-8. Sv–Ligtenberg (13).

Florida 205 000 020– 9 11 1
Philadelphia 003 303 001–10 18 1
Sanchez, Edmondson (4), Stanifer (6), Darensbourg (8), Alfonseca (8) and Redmond. Zaun (8); Portugal, Welch (4), Spradlin (5), Bottalico (7), Leiter (9) and Estalella. W–Leiter, 5-2. L–Alfonseca, 2-5. HRs–Florida, Zeile (12). Philadelphia, Rolen (20).

New York 001 000 000–1 8 0
Chicago 000 002 01x–3 7 0
Reed, Rojas (7), McMichael (8), Cook (8) and Piazza; Wood, Mulholland (8), Adams (9), Beck (9) and Houston. W–Wood, 10-5. L–Reed, 11-7. Sv–Beck (31). HRs–New York, McRae (15). Chicago, Sosa (38).

Montreal 101 020 010–5 14 0
Milwaukee 011 001 21x–6 5 0
Person, Kline (7), Bennett (8), Maddux (8) and Henley; Eldred, Patrick (2), Woodard (6), Plunk (7), Wickman (8) and Matheny. W–Wickman, 5-6. L–Bennett, 3-4. HRs–Milwaukee, Cirillo (8), Hamelin (5).

Cincinnati 100 000 000 0–1 5 0
San Francisco 000 100 000 1–2 3 1
(10 innings) Tomko, Belinda (10) and Taubensee; Hershiser, Nen (8), Mesa (10) and Mayne. W–Mesa, 1-0. L–Belinda, 4-7. HR–San Francisco, J.Kent (13).

Houston 100 020 001 0–4 9 1
San Diego 102 010 000 1–5 10 0
(10 innings) Hampton, Ja.Powell (7), D.Henry (9), Magnante (9) and Ausmus; K.Brown, Hoffman (9), Wall (10) and C.Hernandez. W–Wall, 4-2. L–Magnante, 3-5. HRs–Houston, Alou (25), San Diego, Caminiti (18).

St. Louis 000 110 001–3 8 0
Colorado 000 100 000–1 7 1
Mercker, CJ.King (6) and Marrero; Thomson, Leskanic (7), McElroy (8) and J.Reed; Manwaring. W–Mercker, 6-8. L–Thomson, 5-7. HRs–St. Louis, McGwire (44), McGee (3).

Arizona 000 000 030–3 9 0
Los Angeles 104 000 00x–6 9 1
An.Benes, W.Banks (6) and Sinnen; I.Valdes, L–An.Benes, 7-11. Los Angeles, Luke (9), Karros (12).

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Haifa gets its share of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's end-of-season Beethoven festival with two concerts. Tonight Maria Joao Pires plays the Fourth Piano Concerto and Zubin Mehta leads the orchestra in the popular Fifth Symphony, while tomorrow Mehta conducts the Fourth Symphony and the second *Leonora* overture while violinist Gil Shaham plays the violin concerto. Both concerts at the Haifa Congress Center at 8:30 p.m.

Scenes from famous Italian operas will be presented by the participants of the Israel Vocal Arts Institute summer program tonight at 8 a the Enav Center in Tel Aviv.

Pianist Igor Chetuev, the winner of the recent Artur Rubinstein Piano Master Competition in Tel Aviv, plays Schumann's piano quintet with Israeli colleagues tonight at 9 at the Kfar Blum chamber-music festival in a program that also includes music by Mozart and Brahms. At 5 p.m. the program comprises Michael Wolpe's second string quartet and Schnittke's piano quartet.



Pianist Igor Chetuev plays Schumann at the Kfar Blum chamber-music festival.

ETHNIC

HELEN KAYE

Georgian Celebration Week continues with the central event, a variety show starring artists from here and abroad. Singers and opera stars include Nani Bregvadze, Zoorab Sodkilava, Eka Mamaladze and Gogi Kvataradza. The local contingent includes Yardena Arazi, David Deor and the Ra'anana Symphonette, as well as local Georgian dance troupes. At the Mann Auditorium tonight at 8. Tomorrow it's a Georgian open house in Ashkelon's national park featuring local Georgian immigrants and visiting Georgian entertainers from 6 p.m., and it's free.

The Jerusalem Festival for Arabic Music continues with groups from Galilee, Tunisia and Morocco. Tonight it's the Anwar Abrahm Trio from Tunisia which plays traditional and contemporary Tunisian and Oriental music. At 8 at the Tomb of the Kings garden near the American Colony Hotel.

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Rodrigo: Concerto madrigal for 2 Guitars and Orchestra ; Kallinikov: Sad Song; Barber: Adagio for Strings; Bach: Preludes and Fugues nos 1-3 from book 1 of The Well-Tempered Clavier; Bach/Gounod: Ave Maria
7:07 Scarlatti: Sonata in G minor; Mozart: String Quartet in D major K499 (Jerusalem); Schubert: Piano Sonata in F minor (Berman)
8:05 Beethoven: 6 Variatins in F major for Piano op 34; Beethoven: Symphony no 6 "Pastorale"
9:05 Bach: French Suite no 6; Haydn: Harmoniemesse; Brahms: Piano Trio no 1 op 8; Mahler: Symphony no 5
12:00 Light Classical - Paraphrases on Verdi, Dopler, Wagner and Liszt
13:00 Artist of the Week - Winton Marsalis, trumpet. Works by Marsalis, Ellington, Kirkland, Ron Carter and his orchestra, conducted by Robert Friedman.
14:06 Music from Near and Far
15:00 New CDs - Vivaldi: Concerto in G4 Violins op 3 no 2; Mozart: Zaide; Mendelssohn: String Quintet no 2 op 87
17:00 Upper Galilee Music Days, 1998 - live from Kfar Blum. Master class; Schnittke: Piano Quintet
19:05 From Our Concert Halls - an evening of Aaron Copland. Short Symphony no 2; Symphony for Organ and Orchestra; An Outdoor Overture for Orchestra; Symphonic Ode; Music for the Theater; Proclamation
21:00 Upper Galilee Music Days, 1998 - live from Kfar Blum. Mozart: Piano Concerto in A major K414; Brahms: String Quartet op 51 no 1 (Aviv); Schumann: Piano Quintet op 44

■ RADIOWEST

CNN news on the hour followed by RadioWest local news

6:00 Morning Drive till 9:00 – Music with David Starck
7:30 English Newspaper Headlines
7:45 Sports Update with Danny Gewirtz
8:08 Lions Trust Financial Update
9:00 Morning Brunch (until 12:00) – '80s-'90s Music with Sharon Wagner
10:00 Mediaworks Hi-Tech Show
12:00 Premium Time – Centurion Insurance
13:00 Windows on the World
13:30 Pick of the Hits with Donna Abraham
15:30 Afternoon Drive (until 18:00) – with Mike Reinis
18:00 Barak Moore Show – Call in talk radio
18:45 Sports Update
19:00 Dr. Michael Kagen on Tisha Be'av
21:00 Barbara Diamond – One on One Interview Show
22:00 West Rocks – Michal Cohen
1:00 Late Night Music

■ BBC WORLD SERVICE

6:00 News
6:05 World Business Report
6:15 Sports Roundup
6:30 Insight
6:45 Off the Shelf: Peacock Garden, part 3
7:00 The World Today
7:30 Outlook
7:45 Take Five
8:00 The World Today
8:30 Discovery
9:00 News
9:15 Insight
9:30 About Face
10:00 News
10:15 Off the Shelf: Stories By Nadine Gordimer – 'Jump' 12, part 1
10:30 Welcome To My World
10:45 The Lab
11:00 News
11:10 Pause For Thought
11:15 Musical Of The Week
12:00 News
12:05 World Business Report
12:15 Stories From The Afterlife
12:30 Learn It! (BBC English)
12:45 Sports Roundup
13:00 Newsdesk
13:30 On Screen
14:00 Newsdesk
14:30 About Face
15:00 News
15:05 World Business Report
15:15 Britain Today
15:30 Health Matters
15:45 Sports Roundup
16:00 Newshour
17:00 News
17:05 Outlook
17:30 Multitrack: Hit List
17:45 Sports Update with Danny Gewirtz
18:00 News
18:05 Sports Roundup
18:15 Westway
18:30 The Greenfield Collection
19:00 Europe Today
19:30 World Business Report
19:45 Britain Today
20:00 News
20:15 Insight
20:30 Science Feedback
20:45 Sport Roundup with Jerusalem Post Sports Editor Joe Hoffman
21:00 Newsdesk
21:30 One Planet
22:00 News
22:01 Outlook
22:25 Pause For Thought
22:30 Magamix
23:00 Newshour
00:00 News

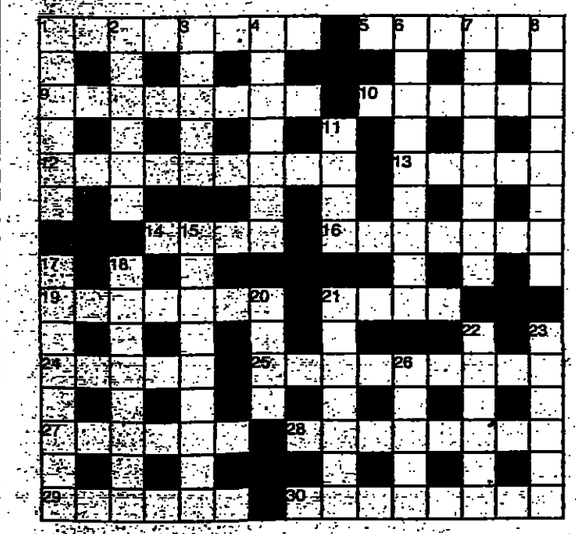
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Note pamphlet put around is to beguile (8)
5 A man of stone (6)
9 Fine the worker taking part (8)
10 Greek place exhibiting pictures in a health resort (6)
12 Lacking grace, but gentle in a gauche way (9)
13 This country has some fine palaces (5)
14 Work on back street required picks (4)
16 A couple of beasts uniting can be a problem (7)
19 Arching in discomfiture (7)
21 The German lyric told a story (4)
24 A light set to one side (5)
25 The governor got a ruler replaced (9)
27 High-flier who saw his support melt away (6)
28 Lost radiance when in some pain (8)
29 A body of soldiers going in gets salutes (6)
30 Installing dolt in top situation is most tactless (8)

DOWN

1 Flora and Hilda, a strange combination (6)
2 Taking issue on clear lines (6)
3 The woman looks right—very big, that is (5)
4 Fights tease at one point (7)
6 A quiet attendant about to get rid of a hanger-on (9)
7 Go into liquidation through father retaining money (8)
8 Back many a politician giving a warning... (4,4)
11 ...before retiring to an active volcano (4)
15 Being mean over the sum outstanding (9)
17 Saving a little in middle-age (8)
18 Meet with a car smash caused by soak (8)
20 "Service not included" is the usual thing (4)
21 The girl may appear to have lost weight (7)
22 All out assault (6)
23 Clever British leader—Conservative (6)
26 Fills boys with nothing inside them (5)



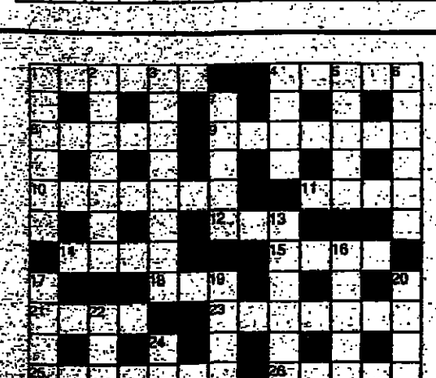
SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Roads, 4 Collar, 9 Babbled, 10 Eight, 11 Lamb, 12 Imitate, 13 Hot, 14 Nero, 16 Nude, 18 Act, 20 Salamis, 21 Gala, 24 Haven, 25 Elderly, 26 Annoys, 27 Linen.

DOWN: 1 Rabbie, 2 Album, 3 Sill, 5 Obedient, 6 Laggard, 7 Rotter, 8 Admit, 13 Hogmanay, 15 Enliven, 17 Asthma, 18 Askew, 19 Canyon, 22 Apron, 23 Idol.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Riviera resort (6)
4 Vends (5)
8 Renowned (5)
9 Harmful (7)
10 Ruled (7)
11 Peruse (4)
12 Dry (wine) (3)
14 Monster (4)
15 Above (4)
18 Mat (3)
21 Singing voice (4)
23 Denial (7)
25 Fully satisfy (7)
26 Correct (5)
27 Synthetic fibre (5)
28 Citrus fruit (6)

DOWN

1 Middle (6)
2 Nil (7)
3 Imperil (8)
4 Rescue (4)
5 Big (5)
6 Quick (6)
7 Employees (5)
13 Hairdresser (8)
16 Oriental (7)
17 Dried fruit (6)
19 Avarice (5)
20 Promise (6)
22 Sum (5)
24 Daybreak (4)

TV

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Vacation TV
9:45 Hobberdy Dick
10:10 Hot Shots
10:35 Deepwater Haven
11:00 Time Exposures
11:25 Hot Science
11:50 Platius
12:00 Vacation TV
14:30 Star Trek – Deep Space 9
15:15 Spaceship Earth

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Zap Free
15:35 X Men
15:55 Zap – Country Vacation
16:05 Lassie
16:30 Zap – Festival at Chevrolet
16:45 Zap – seaside vacation
16:59 New Evening
17:35 Zap Free
17:50 USA High – new series
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Apropos
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 A Moment in Life
19:35 Gregory Hines
20:00 News
20:10 Talk of the Day
20:25 Are You Being Served?
21:00 News
21:30 Grace Under Fire
21:55 Lotto Draw
22:00 In the Name of Love (Hebrew, 1995) – award-winning local production about five characters and their quest for the truth about themselves and their relationships. With Michal Vered and Dan Turgeman
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Animation
6:43 Reshet Morning
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pablo
10:30 Super Duper
11:00 Popeye and Son
11:30 League from Another World
12:00 Enid Blyton
12:30 Father on Parole
13:00 My Secret Identity
13:30 Home and Away
14:00 Calculated Risk
14:30 Sesame Street
15:00 Clipop
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Reshet
17:30 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
18:00 Wiper
19:00 Pacific Blue
20:00 News
20:30 Focus
21:05 Summer on the Beach
22:30 Basic Training
23:25 The Good, The Bad and The Ugly (1966) – classic Sergio Leone spaghetti Western with Clint Eastwood, Lee Van Cleef and Eli Wallach
00:00 News
00:05 The Good, The Bad and The Ugly – cont.
2:15 On the Edge of the Shelf

■ JORDAN TV (31) (unconfirmed)

15:00 Holy Koran
15:10 Prostar
15:30 Star Runner
16:00 Bordertown
16:30 Girlie, It's You
17:00 Skeleton Beach
18:00 French programs
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 French Show
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Stepfather, Stepmother
20:00 What Would You Do?
20:30 Encounter
21:00 Current Affairs
21:15 Rhodes
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie
00:30 Metro Café

■ MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Arthur
17:20 Madeleine
17:45 Babar the King
18:10 Jack Hanna
18:35 Wait Till You Have Kids
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
20:00 Ed Sullivan
20:25 Acapulco Heat
21:15 The Cape
22:05 Sirenes
23:00 The 700 Club
23:30 CNN News

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Animation
16:45 Amores
17:30 From Day To Day
18:00 Animation
19:00 Arabic News
19:30 Entertainment Now
20:00 American History
20:30 Showcase
21:00 News
21:30 Telekessel
22:00 Mysteries of our Century
22:45 Cinema 3

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Boogie's Diner
16:00 Summer Studio
16:45 Local Pop
17:00 Rosewood and Olive
17:30 Nature and Science
18:00 Family Album
18:30 Blitz on Cartoons
19:00 Comedy Company
19:30 New Evening
20:00 Mirror
20:30 Through Our Eyes
21:00 Butoh: Piercing the Mask – BBC documentary about Japan's Butoh dance style
22:00 Star Trek: Deep Space 9
22:45 Life and Times of Lord Mountbatten

■ CHANNEL 3

7:00 E!TV: Amazing Jewels
8:00 Celeste
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Angels Don't Cry
12:00 Ricki Lake
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 The John Larroquette Show
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Angels Don't Cry
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Cafe Pans
18:00 Trivia King (rpt)
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210 (rpt)
20:25 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch
20:50 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch (rpt)
21:10 Suddenly Susan
21:35 Dreams of Youth
22:00 Suddenly Susan
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:00 Ricki Lake (rpt)
23:45 Sentinel
00:30 Babylon 5
1:20 Love Boat

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Children of the Steps (Hebrew, 1984) – a portrait of Israeli society. With Ossi Hillel and Adi Goren
13:10 Dick Tracy versus Cueball – With Morgan Conway
14:00 Seeing Stars: Kevin Spacey
14:30 Jack Reed: One of Our Own (1995) – Brian Dennehy returns as policeman Reed. With Charles Dutton and Susan Rattan
15:55 New in the Cinema
16:15 8 Seconds to Glory (1994) – a biopic on the life of rodeo champion Lane Frost. With Luke Perry and Stephen Baldwin
18:05 Chasing the Dragon (1996) – a working-class single mother becomes addicted to heroin. With Markie Post
19:40 Renegade
20:20 The Neon Bible (1995) – slow-moving reminiscence about a boy coming of age in the South. Directed by Terence Davies. With Gena Rowlands and Denis Leary
22:00 Widow's Kiss (1995) – a young man whose father died shortly after remarrying begins to suspect his stepmother of being responsible for the death. With Beverly D'Angelo and Bruce Davidson
23:40 Starstruck (1994) – a sinister Hollywood producer hires aspiring young actors for films where violence and murders take place for real. With Joe Estevez, Karen Black and Lawrence Tierney
1:15 Georgia (1995) – musical drama about sibling rivalry. With Jennifer Jason Leigh and Mare Winningham
3:10 Criminal Intent (1996, 88 mins.) – thriller about a policeman with a crush on his partner. With Alexandra Powers

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
8:05 Oscar and Friends
8:15 Herluffs
8:35 Oliver Twist
9:05 The Smurfs
9:35 Ninja Turtles
10:00 Hot-air Balloon
10:10 Batman
10:40 Twins of Destiny
11:05 Hot-air Balloon
11:15 Viewers' choice comedy
11:50 Hot-air Balloon
12:00 Sweet Valley High
12:20 Hot-air Balloon
12:35 Football: When Dreams Come True
13:00 Bobby's World
13:25 Power Rangers
13:45 Helen and the Boys
14:10 Chiquititas
15:05 Ninja Turtles
15:25 Hot-air Balloon
15:35 Batman
16:05 Twins of Destiny
16:45 Viewers' choice
17:30 Sweet Valley High
18:00 Football: When Dreams Come True (rpt)
18:30 Oliver Twist
19:00 The Smurfs
19:30 Family Matters
19:50 Married with Children
20:15 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:40 Full House
21:10 Beverly Hills 90210

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Life Among the Cannibals (1996) – comic thriller about a young man who tires of being humiliated by his boss and girlfriend and secretly moves away. With Kieran Mulroney, Juliet Landau, Mason Adams and Bette Ford
23:40 J'ai Pas Sommeil (French, 1994, 107 mins.) – bleak drama based on the true story of Thierry Paulin, who killed more than 20 women.

■ CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University
8:00 Spirits of the Jaguar (rpt)
8:55 Floyd on Italy (rpt)
9:20 Ultrasciences: What do Animals Feel? (rpt)
9:50 Julius Caesar
11:10 American Night at the Berlin Philharmonic
12:35A Healthy Body
13:05 Vets' School,
13:40 Washoe, the Chimp who Talks (rpt)
14:35 The Problem with Men (rpt)
15:05 Eyes in the Sky
16:00 Rubber Universe
17:00 Open University: Heroes of Democracy; Mastering the Internet; Giftedness
19:00 A Healthy Body
19:30 Truth or Dairy – on vegetarians and vegans
20:05 A Whale's Tale
21:00 Nutrition Special with Yael Dan
21:50 E.R., The Real Drama
22:45 Hypnosis
23:20 Open University: Celluloid Heroes; Interactions in Science; Man and Music – seven ethnic music groups

■ STAR WORLD (16/15)

6:00 The Frugal Gourmet Cooks Italian
6:30 To the Manor Born
7:00 Bergerac
8:00 Oprah Winfrey
9:00 Santa Barbara
10:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
10:30 Nanny and the Professor
11:00 To the Manor Born
11:30 The Frugal Gourmet Cooks Italian
12:00 Terry Toons
12:30 Small Wonder
13:00 Batman
13:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures
14:00 The Simpsons
14:30 Wonder Years
15:00 Two Point Four Children
15:30 Cheff
16:00 Absolutely Fabulous
16:30 Murder Most Horrid
17:00 Dangerfield
18:00 Santa Barbara
19:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
19:30 The Simpsons
20:00 Two Point Four Children
20:30 Cheff
21:00 Absolutely Fabulous
21:30 Murder Most Horrid
22:00 Dangerfield
23:00 VegeS
00:00 Bergerac
1:00 Aerobics Oz Style
1:30 Terry Toons
2:00 Mighty Thor
2:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures
3:00 Swittly Seasoned
3:30 Aerobics Oz Style
4:00 Nanny and the Professor
4:30 Small Wonder
5:00 Batman
5:30 The Wonder Years

■ BBC WORLD

News on the hour
6:30 Asia Today
6:40 World Business
7:30 Window on Europe
8:30 How Building Learn: Built for Change
9:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
10:30 Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines (rpt)
11:30 Window on Europe (rpt)
12:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
13:30 Earth Report: Sustainable Forestry
14:00 The World Today
15:30 Wild World: Hippos Out of Water
16:30 The World Today
17:30 The Travel Show
18:30 Hard Talk with Tim Sebastian
19:30 Wheels
20:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
22:30 Reporters (rpt)
23:10 World Business
23:30 One Foot in the Past: Palaces of the Apes – how science and natural history affected 19th century architecture
00:10 Europe Direct
1:00 World News and Business Report
1:15 Asia Today (rpt)
2:05 USA Direct
2:30 Window on Europe
3:30 How Buildings Learn (rpt)
4:30 Asia Today
4:45 World News and Business Report
5:30 Asia Today

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL

News through the day
6:15 American Edition
6:30 World Report
7:00 CNN This Morning
7:30 Insight
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Moneyline (rpt)
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sport
10:00 CNN This Morning
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:00 Larry King (rpt)
12:30 World Sport
13:30 American Edition
13:45 World Report: As They See It
14:30 Digital Jam
15:15 News & Business Asia
16:30 CNN Newsroom
17:30 World Sport
18:30 World Beat
19:00 Larry King Live
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business
22:30 Q&A
23:00 News Europe
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
1:30 Moneyline
2:30 Showbiz Today
3:15 Asian Edition
3:30 Q&A (rpt)

■ SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6:30 CBS Evening News
7:30 ABC World News
8:00 Sunrise
12:30 ABC Nightline
13:30 Sky World News
16:30 Live From Parliament
18:30 Sky World News
19:00 Live at Five
21:30 Sportsline
22:30 Business Report
23:30 Sky World News
00:00 Prime Time
2:30 CBS Evening News

■ CHANNEL 5 (05)

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 International Journal
17:30 1998 Xtreme Olympics
19:30 The Survivors
20:00 Candid Camera
20:30 1998 Xtreme Olympics
22:00 Darts
23:00 Game by Order

■ EUROSPORT (15/16)

9:30 Soccer
11:00 Cycling
16:00 Tour de France
18:30 Cycling
19:00 Equestrianism
20:00 Truck Racing
21:00 Live Soccer
23:00 Cycling
1:00 Cart

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	A Moment in Life Gregory Hines Show News Talk of the Day Are You Being Served?			Renegade	Family Matters Married with Children The Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Truth or Dairy A Whale's Tale
20:00		News	Beverly Hills 90210	The Neon Bible	Full House	
20:30	News					Nutrition Special with Yael Dan
21:00	Grace Under Fire Weekly Lotto Draw	Focus	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Beverly Hills 90210	
21:30		Summer on the Beach	Suddenly Susan Dreams of Youth			E.R., The Real Drama
22:00	In the Name of Love		Suddenly Susan	Widow's Kiss	Life Among the Cannibals	
22:30		Basic Training	Seinfeld			Hypnosis
23:00			Ricki Lake			

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Sphere 5 • Drifting Clouds 7:30 • Wag the Dog=Los Naufragos 9:30 G.G. GIL Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Grease=The Patriot 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Mouse Hunt 11:30, 2, 4:455 • The Big Lebowski 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Warriors of Virtue=The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45 • City of Angels 11:30 a.m., 2, 10 • Kissing A Fool 7?:15, 10 • Mercury Rising 7:15, 10 • Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15
JERUSALEM THEATER On Connait La chanson 7 =The Spanish Prisoner 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 ☎ 6792789 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30, 9:45 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Armageddon 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7, 9:45 • Titanic 11, 5, 8:45 • The Horse Whisperer 6:45, 9:45 • Wild Things 7:30, 9:45 • The Wedding Singer=Flubber 11 a.m., 5 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 1, 4:45
MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL ☎ 5700868 As Good As It Gets 7:15, 10 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10
SMADAR ☎ 5618188 Kundun 5 • He Got Game 7:30, 10
TEL AVIV
DIZENGOFF Spanish Prisoner 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • On connait la chanson 11, 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • Warriors of Virtue 11, 1, 3:15, 5:30 • Kissing A Fool 7:45, 10
GAT ☎6967888 The Horse Whisperer 3:15, 6:30, 9:45
GLOBUS ☎6081130/1 Grease=City of Angels 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Superboy=The Magic Sword 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • City of Angels 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Mouse Hunt 11:30 a.m, 2, 5, 7:30 • Mercury Rising 7:30, 10 • The Big Lebowski=Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Patriot 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • High Art 7:30, 10
G.G. HOD 1-4 ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Red Corner=Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Live Flesh 5, 7:30, 10 • Mercury Rising 5, 7:30, 10 • Blues Brothers 2000 4:45, 7:15, 10 •
LEV ☎5268288 He Got Game 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Kundun 11:30 a.m., 5, 10 • Good Will Hunting 1:45, 7, 9:45 • Sweet Hereafter 11:30 a.m., 7:30, 10 • Go Now 2:30, 7:30 • Night Train 5 • Welcome to the Doll House 11 a.m., 2, 4:15
LEV AVIV ☎6417148 He Got Game 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Kundun 2:30, 5, 7:15, 10 • Welcome to the Doll House 11:15, 2:30, 5, 7:30 • Sweet Hereafter 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 10 • Brassed Off 11 a.m., 7:30, 10 • Carla's Song 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10
LIMOR ☎6988084 Shall We Dance 6, 9:45 • Empire of the Senses 8
G.G. PE'ER ☎5442141 City of Angels=High Art 7:30, 10 • Grease 11:30 a.m., 7:30, 10 • Mouse Hunt=The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5 • The Big Lebowski 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 5 • Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10
RAV-CHEN ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Circle Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30, 9:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 2:30, 5 • The Wedding Singer 11 a.m. • As Good As It Gets 2, 4:30, 7:15 9:45 • Primary Colors 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Armageddon 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Wild Things 7:30, 9:45 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 2:30, 5 • Flubber 11 a.m.
RAV-OR 1-5 ☎ 5102674 Opera House Jackie Brown=Boogie Nights 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Lost In Space 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Great Expectations=The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 5:15, 9 • As Good As It Gets Fri. 9:45, 12:15 a.m. SIX MAGNIFICENT ☎6886665 Looking for Lola 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 midnight • Men Always Lie 10:15 a.m., 12:15 a.m., 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15, 12:15 a.m. • Brat 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 midnight • Hard Men 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 • The Break Up 12:15 a.m. • Scared Silly 10:15 a.m., 12:15 a.m., 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15 • Tromeo and Juliet 12:15 a.m. • Sinbad: The Battle of the Dark Knights 10:15 a.m., 12:15 a.m., 2:15, 4:15, 6:15 • Funny Games 8:15, 10:15, 12:15 a.m. TEL AVIV MUSEUM The Hanging Garden 5, 8, 10
HAIFA
CINEMATHEQUE Mi Ultimo Hombre 7 • Bullets Over Broadway 9:30
MORIAH ☎8242477 Kundun 5:15 • On connait la chanson 7:30, 9:30 • Looking for Lola 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 • Stranger Among Gypsies 7:30, 9:30
ORI ☎6500058 Mercury Rising 7:15, 10 • Kissing A Fool 10 • The Patriot 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Grease 7:15, 10 • City of Angels 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Mouse Hunt 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10. • The Big Lebowski 7:15, 10 • The Magic Sword=Warriors of Virtue 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 4:30, 7:15, 10
PANORAMA ☎8382020 Spanish Prisoner 9:30 • City of Angels 7:30, 9:45 • Mouse Hunt 11 a.m., 5, 7:15 • The Magic Sword 11 a.m., 4:30, 6:30 • Lethal Weapon IV 11 a.m., 5, 7:15, 9:45
RAV-CHEN ☎6500055 The Wedding Singer 5, 7:15, 9:30 • As Good As It Gets 4:15, 7, 9:30 • Armageddon 4, 6:45, 9:45 • Wild Things 5, 7, 9:30 • Good Will Hunting 4:30, 7, 9:30
RAV-GAT 1-2 ☎ 8674311 Primary Colors 4:15, 7, 9:30 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30
RAV-MOR 1-7 ☎ 8416898 Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:15, 9:30 • Armageddon 11:30 a.m., 4:30, 6:45, 9:45 • Titanic 11 a.m. • The Wedding Singer 11 a.m., 1, 5 • The Horse Whisperer 6, 9:15 • Good Will Hunting 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Mr. Magoo 11 a.m. • Wild Things 7:15, 9:30 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 1, 5, 7
RAV-OR 1-3 ☎ 8246553 The Horse Whisperer 5 9:15 • Mulan=Pipi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7, 9:30 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:15, 9:30
AFULA
RAV CHEN Armageddon 7, 9:45 • Mulan=Pipi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Lethal Weapon IV 7, 9:30
ARAD
STAR ☎9950904 Lost In Space 11:30 a.m., 5:30, 7:45, 10:15 • Good Will Hunting 7:30, 10 • Warriors of Virtue 11:30 a.m., 5:30 • Kissing A Fool 11:30 a.m., 5:30, 7:30, 10
ARIEL
Good Will Hunting 9
ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 City of Angels =Mouse Hunt=The Patriot 7:30, 10 • The Magic Sword=Superboy *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5 • Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Grease Fri. 11:30 a.m.; Sat. 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30; Thu. Sun-Wed. 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10
ORI ☎8568073 Black Circle Boys=Great Expectations 5, 7:30, 10 • Good Will Hunting 4:45, 7:15, 10
RAV CHEN ☎8661120 The Horse Whisperer 6:30, 9:45 • The Wedding Singer 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 11 a.m., 4:45, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 9:45 • Armageddon 11 a.m., 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Wild Things 7:30, 9:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
ASHLEKON
G.G. GIL ☎ 6729977 City of Angels =Grease=The Patriot 7:30, 10 • Superboy =Warriors of Virtue=The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5 • Mouse Hunt 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30 • Red Corner 10 • Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10
RAV CHEN ☎6711221 Good Will Hunting 7:15, 9:45 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • The Wedding Singer =Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 5 • Great Expectations 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Armageddon 7, 9:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5, 7:30 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎5531077 The Wedding Singer 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 11 a.m. • Armageddon 11 a.m., 4:30 • The Patriot 7:30, 9:45 • Mouse Hunt 11 a.m., 1, 5 • City of Angels 7:30, 9:45 • The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30, 9:45 • Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7:15, 7:45 • Warriors of Virtue 11 a.m., 5
BEERSHEBA
G.G. GIL ☎6440771 As Good As It Gets=Good Will Hunting 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Kissing A Fool 5, 7:30, 10 • Titanic 5, 8:45
G.G. ORI ☎6103111 Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Grease 10 • City of Angels=The Patriot 7:30, 10 • Mouse Hunt=Superboy=The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5
RAV-NEGEV 1-4 ☎6235278 The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Armageddon 11 a.m., 4:45, 7, 9:45 • Wild Things 7:30, 9:45 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30, 9:45 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Pipi Longstocking =Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5
EILAT
EILAT CINEMA Armageddon 7, 10 • The Horse Whisperer 7, 10 • Pipi Longstocking =Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10
GIL ☎6340182 Mouse Hunt=Superboy 11:30 a.m., 5 • The Patriot 7:30, 10 • City of Angels 7:30, 10 • The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m. • Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10
HADERA
LEV ☎6343555 Armageddon 7:15, 10 • He Got Game 5, 7:15, 10 • The Magic Sword 11 a.m., 4 • Mulan 11 a.m., 4, 5:30 • Lethal Weapon IV 7:15, 10 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 10, 12:15 a.m.; 4:30, 7:15, 10
HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎6902666 The Horse Whisperer 6, 9:15 • Primary Colors 5, 7:30, 10:15
DANIEL ☎ 9544044 The Horse Whisperer 6:30, 9:45 • Warriors of Virtue 11:30 a.m., 4:30
STAR ☎ 9589088 Mouse Hunt 3:30 • Armageddon 7:15, 10 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 3:45, 5:30 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 8, 10

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Mitchell, Barnes suspended
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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Stewart, Atherton seal win for England

South Africa lose by 8 wickets; Stewart takes 1st win as captain

NOTTINGHAM (AP) – Alec Stewart played a no-nonsense innings yesterday to put an eight-wicket victory in the fourth cricket Test against South Africa beyond doubt and claim his first Test win as England captain.

In the process, Stewart – who hit an unbeaten 45 off 34 balls – denied former skipper Mike Atherton of a well-deserved century but Atherton managed to hit the winnings runs and was not out 98 when England posted victory at Trent Bridge.

England started the day needing 139 runs to win and with nine wickets in hand. The home side still needed 55 runs when Nassar Hussain was out for 58, shortly after lunch when Atherton was on 87.

Stewart strode to the crease determined not to let South Africa make any further breakthroughs. He belted Allan Donald for three boundaries in one over to signal his intention of sealing a win as quickly as possible.

After being outclassed and outplayed by the South Africans in the second and third Tests, England won by eight wickets and now has a chance to win the series with one Test remaining at Headingly next week.

Atherton and Stewart, England's two form batsmen throughout the series, ensured England a morale-boosting victory after fast bowler Angus Fraser laid the groundwork with a 10-wicket match haul.

In a Test marred by several umpiring controversies, mostly against the South Africans, England's remarkable fight back after conceding a 38-run first innings lead has been completely overshadowed.

Atherton, playing his 50th home Test, weathered a furious stint of bowling from Allan Donald on Sunday after New Zealand umpire Steve Dunn turned down a confident appeal from South Africa for a caught behind.

But Donald failed to intimidate Atherton, who returned to the wicket yesterday in a confident frame of mind.

Atherton and Hussain (58) put on a match-winning 152 runs in four hours before Donald finally separated the pair, when Jacques Kallis took a spectacular catch to dismiss Hussain.

The second wicket pair brought up the 100-run stand in 164 minutes as the first hour of play realized 38 runs in 15 overs.

South African captain Hansie Cronje switched his bowlers around in desperate search of a breakthrough but a breakthrough was not forthcoming in the first session.

Only once before had England scored more than 240 runs to win a Test at home and that was in 1902, when it scored 262 in the final innings to beat Australia by one wicket at the Oval.

Earlier it was Angus Fraser's bowling which led a remarkable England fight back, the fast bowler taking his second five-wicket haul for the match.

Fraser followed up his 5-60 in the first innings with 5-60 for a 10-wicket haul, his second this year since his 11-110 against the West Indies at Port-of-Spain in February.

Fraser was an uncertain starter for the match when he was bracketed with Allan Mullally for one bowling spot, but he is virtually certain to start the next Test after two heroic performances – the first with the bat to stave off South African victory at Old Trafford, the second at Trent Bridge with the ball.

Apart from a handful of decisions that had gone against the South Africans, soft dismissals in the second innings contributed to a paltry 208 which set a gettable target for the English.

SAfrica 1st innings 374 (H.Cronje 126)
England 1st innings 336 (M Ramprakash 67 not out)
South Africa second innings 208 (H.Cronje 67, D.Cullinan 56)
England 2nd innings (overnight 106-1)

M.Butcher c Boucher b Pollock	22
M.Atherton not out	98
N.Hussain c Kallis b Donald	58
A.Stewart not out	45
Extras b-2 lb-11 w-2 nb-9)	24
Total (for two wickets)	247

Fall of wickets: 1-40 2-192 Bowling: Donald 23-8-56-1, Pollock 26-3-79-1 (8nb 1w), Adams 12-4-23-0, Kallis 13-5-26-0 (1w), Elworthy 9-1-38-0, Cronje 4-1-12-0 (1nb)
Result: England won by eight wickets to level the series 1-1
First Test: Drawn. Second Test: South Africa won by 10 wickets. Third Test: Drawn. Fifth Test: Headingley, Leeds, August 6-10.



MERRY COMPANY – England batsman Michael Atherton runs from the field surrounded by adoring fans after the hosts defeated South Africa in the fourth Test between the two countries. (Reuters)

Betar edge Faroe Islands 1-0

By ORI LEWIS

Betar Jerusalem secured their place in the next round of the Champions League qualifiers with a 1-0 away soccer victory against B.36 Torshavn of the Faroe Islands last night.

The lone goal, by Istvan Hamar in the 68th minute was enough to see the Betaris, 5-1 aggregate winners, through to their next home-and-away series against Lisbon's Benfica.

Only a few hundred fans turned out for the match which was played on the natural grass surface in Toftir, about an hour's drive from the Torshavn, the capital.

The win will be a morale-booster for the Jerusalemites, who next face the Portuguese side for a place in the prestigious and lucrative Champions' League and a chance at making some big bucks.

That clash, also over two legs is set for next month. Benfica are due to host Betar in their 120,000 stadium in the Portuguese capital on August 12 with the return leg two weeks later.

Previous Israeli sides have not managed to win in the bleak, windswept Faroe Islands, population 45,000, which lie halfway between the Shetland Islands and Iceland. Maccabi Haifa were beaten 3-2 by Klakksvikar Itrottarfelag in the Cup Winners Cup in 1995 while the national team drew 1-1 in a friendly international in 1992.

Minus NBA stars, world c'ships are wide open

ATHENS (AP) – This was not supposed to be a wide-open World Basketball Championship.

Grant Hill, Gary Payton, Tim Duncan and other NBA stars were going to lead the latest US Dream Team to another gold medal.

But the NBA's labor dispute scrapped all that, and nearly half of the 16 teams in the championship, which opens tomorrow and ends August 9, harbor realistic hopes of a medal, maybe gold.

Rudy Tomjanovich's US team is an anonymous, workmanlike group that will need discipline and defense to earn the title that would have been a sure thing for a crew of NBA stars.

Asked for a comparison with the All-Everything squad he was originally slated to coach, Tomjanovich said, "It's not close as far as the talent. ... We have to do it with teamwork and let the system create opportunities."

USA Basketball initially selected 12 NBA players for the world championship, but with a lockout looming July 1, the All-Stars threatened a boycott. USA Basketball moved first, announcing June 16 it was dropping the latest incarnation of the Dream Team.

The result is a curious mix of five CBA players, five Americans playing abroad, one collegian (Duke's Trajan Langdon) and one player looking for a job.

"We have a lot of players who have played overseas and they have been helping us with scouting reports," said starting point guard Michael Hawkins, whose own resume reads like a road map.

The 6-foot guard has played for the NBA's Boston Celtics, the CBA's Rockford Lightning and Olympiakos of the Greek League – all in the past two years.

Like his teammates for the next two weeks, Hawkins doesn't have to worry about what sponsorship deals he might be violating during an eventual medal ceremony.

At the 1992 Olympics, when the Dream Team debuted and hammered Croatia for the gold, Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Charles Barkley took to the medal stand with American flags draped over their shoulders – not an act of unbridled patriotism, but an effort to hide the Reebok logos on the team warmup suits because of conflicting commercial endorsements.

Tomjanovich, who has guided his Houston Rockets to two NBA titles, uses words like "hustle" and "unselfish" a lot when discussing his charges.

For the most part the other 15 countries in the field will not be represented by NBA talent either, though as among the Americans, there are cutoffs.

Australia, bringing the same squad that reached the Goodwill Games final, does have Dallas Mavericks center Chris Anstey, but that's about it.

Yugoslavia, Russia and Lithuania will challenge even though it appears none will have their NBA players. Italy gets instant offense from guard Carlton Myers, who scored 29 points in an 80-75 exhibition loss to Team USA in Rome Saturday night.

New Jersey Nets bust Yinka Dare will play for Nigeria, which also has big bodies in Obinna Ekezie of the University of Maryland, and Makhtar Ndiaye, who played at North Carolina.

Greece could contend if it gets a lift from home-court advantage. But organizers had counted on a Dream Team to help sell tickets, and some local basketball fans may be heading off for island vacations instead.

"I feel the championship won't be that interesting," said Costas Galerides, a highway engineer from Athens. "Of course if the NBA guys were here, nobody else would have a chance."

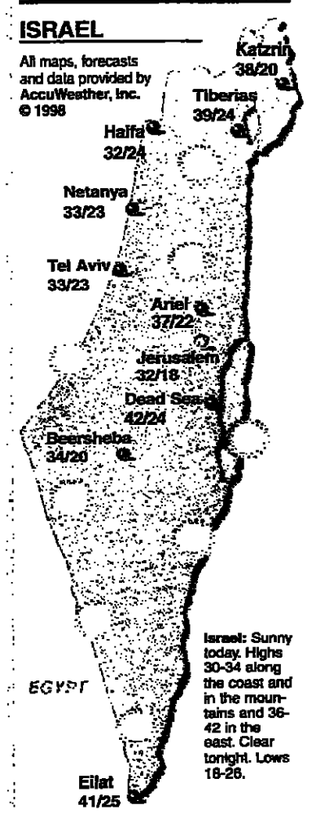
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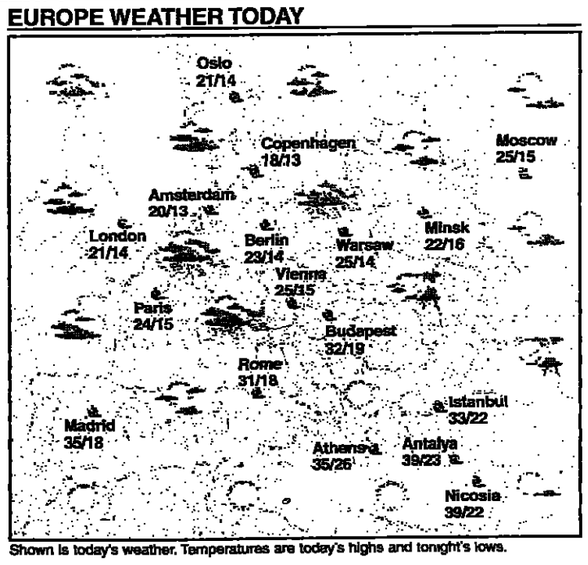
ISRAEL

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Israel: Sunny today. Highs 30-34 along the coast and in the mountains and 36-42 in the east. Clear tonight. Lows 18-26.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Wednesday High C/F	Wednesday Low/W C/F	Thursday High C/F	Thursday Low/W C/F	Friday High C/F	Friday Low/W C/F
Ariel	37/98	22/71/s	39/102	22/71/s	39/102	22/71/pc	37/98	22/71/pc
Beersheba	34/93	20/68/s	36/97	22/71/s	36/97	22/71/pc	34/93	20/68/pc
Dead Sea	42/107	24/75/s	44/111	26/79/s	44/111	26/79/pc	44/111	26/79/pc
Eilat	41/106	25/77/s	42/107	27/80/s	43/109	28/79/pc	44/111	27/80/pc
Haifa	32/89	24/75/s	33/91	25/77/s	33/91	25/77/pc	32/89	24/75/pc
Jerusalem	32/89	18/64/s	33/91	20/68/s	34/93	20/68/pc	33/91	19/66/pc
Katzrin	38/100	20/68/s	40/104	20/68/s	38/100	18/64/pc	38/100	18/64/pc
Netanya	33/91	23/73/s	34/93	23/73/s	34/93	24/75/pc	33/91	23/73/pc
Tel Aviv	33/91	23/73/s	34/93	24/75/s	34/93	24/75/pc	33/91	23/73/pc
Tiberias	39/102	24/75/s	41/106	24/75/s	41/106	24/75/pc	39/102	25/77/pc

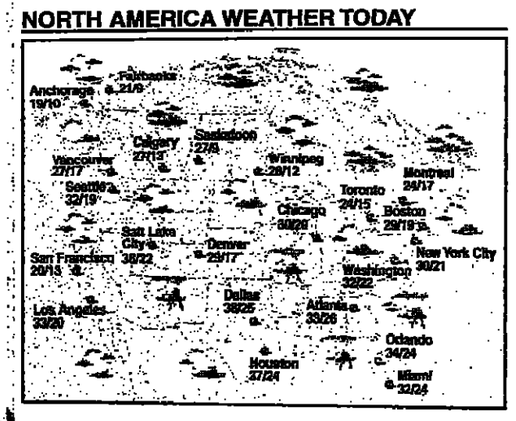
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

First July 31 · Full Aug 8 · Last Aug 14 · New Aug 22

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Wednesday High C/F	Wednesday Low/W C/F	Thursday High C/F	Thursday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	20/68	13/55/r	19/68	16/61/r	21/70	10/50/pc
Beijing	34/93	25/77/pc	34/93	27/80/pc	34/93	26/79/c
Berlin	23/73	14/57/c	22/71	17/62/r	26/79	17/62/pc
Brussels	19/66	13/55/c	19/66	16/61/sh	22/71	9/48/pc
Cairo	36/97	23/73/pc	37/98	24/75/pc	36/97	23/73/pc
Chicago	30/86	20/68/s	29/84	19/66/t	28/82	17/62/pc
Frankfurt	26/79	15/59/pc	22/71	16/61/r	27/80	17/62/pc
Hong Kong	34/93	27/80/pc	33/91	27/80/sh	33/91	27/80/pc
Johannesburg	22/71	6/43/s	23/73	5/41/s	21/70	6/43/pc
London	21/70	14/57/sh	20/68	12/53/r	19/66	8/46/pc
Los Angeles	33/91	20/68/s	34/93	18/64/pc	33/91	18/64/pc
Madrid	35/95	18/64/s	36/100	21/70/s	37/98	19/66/r
Mexico City	26/79	13/55/c	24/75	13/55/c	24/75	13/55/pc
Montreal	24/75	17/62/t	27/80	17/62/t	26/79	15/59/t
Moscow	25/77	15/59/pc	29/84	20/68/pc	30/86	21/70/pc
New York	30/86	21/70/pc	30/86	21/70/pc	30/86	20/68/t
Paris	24/75	15/59/pc	23/73	14/57/pc	23/73	9/48/pc
Prague	24/75	14/57/t	23/73	14/57/c	28/82	16/61/pc
Rio de Janeiro	29/84	22/71/pc	26/79	19/66/pc	23/73	16/61/pc
Roma	31/88	18/64/t	29/84	20/68/s	33/91	22/71/pc
Sydney	19/66	6/43/s	14/57	6/43/pc	12/53	4/39/pc
Tokyo	29/84	26/79/r	31/88	26/79/sh	29/84	24/75/r
Toronto	24/75	15/59/pc	29/84	16/61/t	28/79	12/53/sh
Vienna	25/77	15/59/sh	26/79	17/62/pc	29/84	20/68/pc
Warsaw	25/77	14/57/sh	23/73	14/57/c	27/80	18/64/pc
Washington	32/89	22/71/pc	32/89	22/71/pc	33/91	22/71/t
Zurich	23/73	12/53/c	23/73	15/59/c	27/80	17/62/pc

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY





ALL DOWNHILL – Riders descend the Col de la Croix during yesterday's 15th stage of the Tour de France, the first in the Alps. (Reuters)

Pantani takes Tour lead in Alps

LES DEUX ALPES (AP) – Marco Pantani of Italy took over the lead in the Tour de France yesterday by moving away in the final two climbs and opening a gap over defending champion Jan Ullrich.

Pantani was in fourth place entering the day, 3 minutes, 1 second behind Ullrich. After the finish. At the end of the day he had a lead of 3 minutes, 53 seconds over American Bobby Julich.

Ullrich, weakening in the final climb, ended up almost nine minutes behind on the day and dropped down to fourth overall, 5:56 behind.

The 15th stage is from Grenoble to Les Deux Alpes, 189 kilometers with four major climbs including two rated "out of category" on a scale of steepness, height and length.

The hills were made worse with rain and fog throughout the day. Temperatures dipped below 10°C (50°F) after Sunday's stage was more than 30°C (86°F).

It was mostly a waiting game throughout the day until the final two climbs. Although France's Christophe Rinero and others built a lead coming over the first two peaks, the group of favorites were watching each other.

Then Pantani went into action.

Heading up the 2,645-meter Galibier mountain, Pantani made his move.

He quickly left the other favorites and took off after the Rinero group.

He built up a lead of almost three minutes at the top of the mountain and even had time to stop completely and put on a plastic jacket to protect him from the wind and cold on the descent.

Although Ullrich cut the gap slightly on the downhill, Pantani moved away on the final climb to the ski station of Les Deux Alpes, almost 1,650 meters with rain worsening.

There are two more days in the Alps with an important time trial coming up on Saturday.

Brown: Drugs rife in distance running

LONDON (AP) – Leading British distance runner Jon Brown says use of the banned drug EPO is as "rife" in his sport as it is in cycling.

The 1996 European cross country champion said EPO was endemic among European runners competing in distances from 5,000 meters to the marathon. However, he said he didn't "suspect" athletes from east Africa who have lowered distant records in recent years.

"Two years ago (the use of EPO) was virtually non-existent in distance running, but I think now you have got some main players operating on the stuff," Brown was quoted as saying in the *Times* newspaper yesterday.

Brown made the allegations amid the drug scandal which has marred the Tour de France, forcing the achievements of cyclists to take a backseat to the alleged widespread use of EPO in the sport.

Samaranch on drugs, Page 17

EPO is a performance-enhancing substance which increases the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood by increasing the level of red blood cells. It is most beneficial to endurance athletes.

"It is mainly the European athletes from countries with a background in cycling. The same people are supplying the cyclists and the distance runners," Brown told the *Independent* newspaper.

"Once you go down that road – the same as cycling – sport is not real sport and the barriers are unlimited," he said.

"It's going to be like the Tour (Tour de France), where people think if you don't take the stuff, you're not going to come first. In cycling it is team policy. I would not like to see distance running go that way."

After gaining British selection for the European championships starting in Budapest next month, the 27-year-old athlete said his main goal was to beat the cheats.

"Soon there is going to be no way anybody is going to beat these characters without playing their game."